THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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ROYAL ASIA

THE WEEK.

Monday, 29th September.

IT is said that Prince Bismarck has an adopted son, now twenty years of age, and he is a Frenchman. "It was one evening during the Franco-Prussian war that the Chancellor entered his sleeping apartments, twenty-five miles from Paris, and was surprised to find a tiny baby boy curled up asleep on his pillow. The mother had left a note saying that her husband had been killed at Sedan, and despair and want had forced her to give up her child. Prince Bismarck sent the child by special nurse to Berlin, where he had it well cared for. He has given the boy a good education, and he is now a model young man and devotedly attached to the old Prince."

Trade Journal thus gives an account of the origin of names of fabrics. "Muslin is named from Mosul in Asia. Taffeta and tabby from a street in Bagdad. Drugget is derived from a city in Ireland, Drogheda. Cambric from Cambrai. Gauze has its name from Gaza. Baize from Bajac; dimity from Damietta, and jeans from Jean. Damask is from the city of Damascus. Satins from Zaytown, in China. Velvet is from the Italian, vellute, woolly. (Latin, vellus—a hide or pelt.) Serge derives its name from Xerga, a Spanish name for a peculiar woollen blanket. Shawl is the Sanskrit sala (floor), for shawls were first used as carpets and tapestry. Bandanna is from an Indian word to bind or tie, because it is tied in knots before dyeing. Alpaca from an animal in Peru of the Ilama species, from whose wool the fabric is woven. Diaper is not from D'Ypres, as it is sometimes stated, but from the Greek diaspron, figured. Buckram takes its name from Fostat, a city of the Middle ages, from which the modern Cairo is descended. Calico from Calicut, a town in India, formerly celebrated for its cotton cloth, and where calico was also printed. Blanket is called after Thomas Blanket, a famous clothier, connected with the introduction of woollens into England about 1340."

PARLIAMENTARY REPORTING A HUNDRED YEARS AGO: For nearly three years Dr. Johnson continued Cave's reporter, and during the whole of this period Parliamentary utterances were widely read. Some of the speeches, as reported, were marvels of scholarly diction, and, when in print, surprised even the members themselves. Reporting was the easiest thing in the world to the Doctor. He did not trouble to go to the House. His custom was "to fix upon a speaker's name, then to make an argument for him and conjure up an answer," and he did all this so well that Voltaire, on reading the debates, exclaimed. "The eloquence of Greece and Rome is revived in the British Senate!" One of the most notable speeches credited to the elder Pitt was written by Dr. Johnson in a garret in Exeter Street; and, when asked, at a dinner given by Foote, how it was possible for him to write the speech, he retorted, "Sir, I wrote it in Exeter Street. I never was in the gallery of the House of Commons but once in my life. Cave had interest with the door-keepers; he and the persons employed under him got admittance, they brought away the subjects of discussion, the names of the speakers, the side they took, and the order in which they rose, together with notes of various arguments adduced in the course of the debate. The whole was afterwards communicated to me and I composed the speeches in the form they now have in the parliamentary debates."

PARLIAMENTARY REPOTING TO DAY: Each London morning paper, each news agency, each combination of provincial journals, and Hansard has its own staff of parliamentary reporters. A "galley corps" consists of from three to sixteen gentlemen of the press—all expert shorthand writers, who can not only take notes but transcribe them. Each London newspaper has also a summary writer, who likewise manages its corps. The modern system of reporting goes on throughout the night, quietly, efficiently, mingling method with skill and culture, each gentleman of the staff not only transcribing his notes with rapidity and accuracy, and saving many a member's reputation for sanity, but being careful to see that his copy is properly lettered and folded, that section follows section in alphabetical order—that, in fact, the speech, though reported perhaps by six men, reads as smoothly as though it had been done by one.

Tuesday, 30th September.

THE *Manchester Guardian* writes :—"The Indian papers received by this week's mail mention a rumour that Mr. Herbert Gladstone will preside over the next sitting of the National Congress at Calcutta, at the end of the present year. I understand, however, that nothing has been settled. If the Indian committees, with whom the selection rests, agree that the hon. member for West Leeds would be a disirable president an invitation will in due time be sent to him. Some of the committees, I am informed, have informally expressed themselves in favour of the proposal. Mr. Herbert Gladstone was so pleased with India when he went there three or four years ago that he is anxious to revisit the country, but he has not hitherto been prominently identified with the Congress movement." The question as to who should be the President of the Sixth National Congress has not yet been settled.

THE Kashmir Durbar has unanimously approved of an asylum to contain some fifty lepers being constructed and supported by the State. His Excellency the Viceroy has signified his satisfaction at the step taken by the Kashmir authorities.

MR. Kiernander is likely to continue to officiate as Accountant-General in Bengal for some time.

IT is said to be practically certain that the Kalka-Umballa Railway will not be opened for the public till the middle of November. Sir Charles Elliott and Colonel Forbes will travel over the new line on the 15th. The traffic difficulties near Kalka apparently prevent the line being opened in time for the Simla exodus.

A story is given to the press from Lower Mass, America, of a wonderful electric man which has been constructed by an ingenious citizen of that place. The automaton is described as appearing like a fine looking young man, of about 25 years of age, five feet eight inches in height, and with an open, intelligent countenance. He is dressed at present in a summer suit of grey-mixed goods, white skirts, collar and cuffs. His clothes can of course be changed as desired, and his owner is already said to have provided him with several suits. "There are none of the jerky movements that are so commonly seen in mechanical figures," but that on the contrary, his motions are easy and natural, and that he is as much at home in the drawing-room as on the street. His walk is particularly natural, and he has a firm, springy step that suggests the trained athlete. At present the owner of this combination of castiron electricity and other things is engaged in pushing a sort of overgrown baby carriage about town in which two or three persons can ride, and he, it is said, lifts his hat gracefully when he receives a fare. He is provided with a six horse-power battery. This makes him remarkably strong.

A TECHNICAL School, involving an expenditure of about half-a-lac of rupees, will be shortly built at Lahore by the Panjab Government. According to present proposals, the School seems to be meant for the use of Indians only.

AN interesting story is going round concerning a conversation which is reported to have taken place between the German Emperor and the Czar during the recent visit of the former. According to the most authentic version of the story, the two Sovereigns were conversing after dinner on the day after the arrival of William II. The German Emperor alluded to the difficulties and dangers which were threatening all the Monarchies of Europe from revolutionaries, who in Germany called themselves Social Democrats, and in Russia Nihilists. After the Kaiser had expressed himself at considerable length as to his fears and anxieties on this score Alexander III. replied: "In Russia there are no longer any Nihilists, and your Majesty must be fully aware that all the plots and conspiracies reported in foreign journals have never existed." This was a pointed allusion to the German and Austrian Governmental organs which have originated most, if not all, the stories that have been going the round of Europe about Nihilist plots. The Kaiser understood the allusion, and changed the subject of conversation.

Wednesday, 1st October.

THE Washington House of Representatives has passed the Tariff Bill as amended by the Conference Committee. The Bill comes into operation on the 6th of October.

THE *Times of India*, referring to the Goa disturbances, says:—"After our representative's patient inquiries, it is simply a matter of impossibility to judge who is in the right and who is in the wrong. One thing, however, comes out very plainly. The Government or one of its officials acted with grave indiscretion. Even the version of the affray which is most favourable to the Government, that, namely, which was given to our correspondent by the Governor himself, shows that the original provocation was a most trifling one. Senhor Carneiro was on his way to the Municipal Hall accompanied by a Corporal. The Corporal alleges that he was struck on the head by a stone or some other missile. Senhor Carneiro thereupon sent for two soldiers from the adjacent gaol, and the people, gathered in the Square, resented this as a menace, and disarmed the men. On this Senhor Carneiro anticipating a disturbance sent to the barracks for troops. These were later on drawn up near the Municipal Hall, and began pushing back the people. A shot was then fired, so the Governor's version goes, from a window opposite, and then the *melee* began. The soldiers were ordered to fire in the air to frighten the people, and instead of doing so in the excitement of the moment some of them fired on the people. The authentic popular version of the incident, as gathered by our special correspondent, is much the same as that already published. To speak with perfect frankness we believe thus far neither side, nor does there seem at present any possibility of getting at the real facts."

BIKANIR has now a very efficient Camel Corps. Under Lieutenant Kettlewell's supervision, the Corps, which is 170 strong, has made rapid progress with its drill. The men have now a smart uniform and new quarters, and are liberally paid. It is believed that the Corps will become popular, and attract recruits.

IT is said to be probable that Mr. Paul will be appointed to act as Joint-Commissioner for the Government of India in connection with the Sikkim Treaty. Mr. Hart is expected to be the Chinese Joint-Commissioner.

NEWS has been received stating that Mr. Swinton in charge of the Police force sent to relieve Changsil, was attacked by the Lushais and killed, together with four sepoys. The force, however, entered the fort with some difficulty.

AT a special meeting of the Northern Spinners, an Association has been summoned to consider the organised system of fraudulent packing of cotton in India.

THE Tariff Bill admits sugar below the number of 16 standard free, and above that number duty will be five-tenths of a cent per pound.

A SPOUTING well of petroleum has been discovered at Degbri in Upper Assam, which promises large yields of oil.

THE latest big thing attempted in America is a canal to provide for the drainage of Chicago by carrying away the filth in solution to the Mississipi. The canal will have a fall of a few feet, so that at the Chicago end, which is the highest point, 300,900 gallons per minute of fresh water from Lake Michigan will flow into it. This water will carry off the sewage southward, and it is expected that the enormous inflow of pure water will counteract the bad effects of the inflow of sewage. The canal will cost thirty million dollars, to be raised by taxation. As an enormons quantity of material will be required in its construction, a great impetus will be given to local industries. A representative of the drainage board will shortly visit the Liverpool and Manchester Ship Canal Work to see if he can pick up some practical hints, as the canal is to be utilised for the shipping purposes as well.

WE learn from the *Jessore Sammilani* that nearly Rs, 1,573 have been raised in Jessore to relieve the distress of the people, suffering from the recent floods. Out of this sum Maharani Surnomoye, C. E. has paid Rs. 300.

Thursday, 2nd October.

HERE is a method—German—for converting wood into mirror:—"The wood is first submitted to a bath of caustic alkali for two or three days at a temperature of about 175 degrees, Fahrenheit, then dipped in hydrosulphate of calcium for 24 to 36 hours, after which a concentrated solution of sulphur is added. After another dip in a acetate of lead solution at about 100 degrees, a shining metallic surface is given by polishing when dry with lead, tin, or zinc."

IT is very probable that His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, accompanied by Lady Harris, will pay a visit to Calcutta early next year (according to the *Times of India*), and during their stay here they will be the guests of His Excellency the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne. Lord Connemara, the Governor of Madras, will probably also pay a visit to Calcutta the next cold season.

IT is said that Government has sanctioned the construction of a railway from Delhi to Muttra, and that the work will soon be taken in hand.

IN his speech on the Indian Budget, Sir Roper Lethbridge is said to have made the following remarks:—"I foresee in India that there will be great possiblities to economise our military charges in one way, and I will explain to the Committee why I think so. We now spend large sums in maintaining great bodies of men in various cantonments, apparently doing little else in some cases than watching the armies of our Feudatories. The ever-increasing loyalty of the Feudatory States of India is a matter which ought to afford us the highest satisfaction. It has been proved beyond doubt by the loyal offers of those Feudatory Princes to provide for the Empire at large against any foreign foe, and also by their more recently expressed willingness to arrange their military affairs in such a way as to enable the Government of India to withdraw those troops in favour of Feudatory troops, or, at any rate, no longer to regard them as simply a watch upon Feudatory armies."

FRENCH capitalists are asking from the Russian Government for the concession for a railway across the Caucasus.

THE Nawab of Bhawalpur has asked the Government of India to let his Imperial Service Corps be sent on any frontier expedition which may be starting for war operations this year, in order that they may be rendered more efficient.

THE Maharaja of Ulwar will command his own troops at the parade before the Viceroy on the 27th of October.

THE *Morning Post* says:—"Whatever our officially inspired contemporaries may say to the contrary the simple fact is that our relations with the Court of Cabul have reached a state of friction and tension that is by no means conducive to the maintenance of a future good understanding and peace The Amir and the tribal Chiefs are thoroughly alarmed and irritated by the feverish restlessness, exhibited by us on their border by our frontier railway projects and surveys, and our annexation of the Gomal Pass and Zhob Valley There was a recent gathering of the tribal Chiefs at Cabul, on the Amir's invitation, and it was then unanimously resolved to oppose, and resist, further aggression. As a nation the Afghans are intensely suspicious and jealous of their independence. The Zhob Valley military expedition, the proposed Black Mountain border military promenade, the punitive expedition in the Kohat Thull direction, the projected gathering of our troops at the Satock frontier, and other supporting and strategical centres in the Punjab, are accepted by them as aggressive, and threatening politico-military moves on our part, made in order to support and enforce our railway projects in Afghanistan. And had not the Gomal Pass arrangement been *de facto* a failure, there would have been no need, for the so-called (but mis-termed) Zhob Valley Expedition. There is yet time, however, to allay this undesirable and impolitic excitement and trouble by inviting the Amir to Peshawar, and entering into a frank, open and friendly explanation with him as to our real intentions and projects, apart from the usual crookedness and guile of the Indian Foreign Office."

SOME particulars of the programme of the Czarewitch's tour are given by a London correspondent; but a Bombay paper understands that down to the present time the Foreign Office in India has received no intimation of the intended visit of the "Heir to all the Russias" and the Indian Government has communicated with the authorities in England as to the truth of the intended visit to India of the Czarewitch.

Friday, 3rd October.

IT is not often that Calcutta witnesses feats of pedestrianism that test the endurance of the performer. The climate is against it, and to use a common expression, a little will go a long way. People saunter in the gardens or on the Secretary's Walk, but there is not much heel-and-toe work, as that is understood. On Monday, the 13th instant Mr. Arthur Hancock, the champion 50-miles walker of the world, will enter upon a contest against six walkers of the Surrey Regiment. The contest is to be for a week, walking for three hours each evening. Mr. Hancock will walk for the three hours, competing against the six men taking half-an-hour each. The contest is to take place in the Albert Victor Rink.

A SOCIETY for the Encouragement and Preservation of Indian Arts has been opened in London. It will endeavour to keep alive such of the ancient art-industries of India, as are in danger of perishing.

ACCORDING to the *Novoe Vremya*, a rumour is current in Afghan Turkestan that Ishak Khan, the Afghan pretender, intends to apply for permission to become a naturalised Russian subject, and to enter the Russian Army.

MR. SEYMORE KEAY is believed to be coming to Hyderabad with an object, which has an important bearing on the welfare of the Nizam's State. His coming is anxiously looked forward to by many in Hyderabad.

DRS. BARCLAY and Cunningham are to be placed on special duty on the Leprosy Commission. Dr. Bomford will act as Secretary to the Surgeon-General, Dr. Harris from Simla taking his place at Nagpore as Civil Surgeon.

THE Government of the N. W. Provinces advocate the establishment of a central depot for the sale of jail manufactures.

AT the next Educational Conference which is shortly to meet at Bombay, physicial education prominently figures among the topics for discussion.

IT has been decided that the meeting of the Mahomedan Educational Congress will be held this year on December 26, at Allahabad instead of at Allyghur. The majority of Punjab Mahomedans were in favour of the meetings being held at Lahore and Allyghur alternately: but the proposal was overruled, and Allahabad was selected as the best place for this year's meeting on the ground that it is more central for the North-West Provinces, Oudh, and the Punjab.

THE residents of sixteen villages in the neighbourhood of Barrackpur have addressed a memorial to the Manager of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, asking that season tickets may be issued for intermediate stations between Calcutta and Barrackpur. The want is said to be most felt in connection with the sending of boys to the Barrackpur Government School, which affords a high class education, but Government employes and other regular travellers would also find season tickets a great convenience.

IN the Bengal Government Resolution on the Administration Report of the Rajshaye Division for the year 1889-90, it is stated that the agriculturists, who form the bulk of the population, were "comparatively" well off; public health was better than in 1888; and that the masons, blacksmiths &c. received high wages in Rajshahye, but not in Bogra. Turning to the condition of trade, we are told that the outturn of silk in the District has increased, while the business has almost been abandoned in Bogra. The yield of tea was nearly 2 crores and 47 lacs of pounds against 2 crores and 6 lacs of pounds in the previous year. The trade with Bhutan increased during the year, the imports being valued at Rs one lac and 53 thousand against one lac and eight thousand in the previous year. Mr. Lowis, the Divisional Commissioner, prefers having benches of Honorary Magistrates, sitting alone, to those over which a Stipendiary Magistrate presides, on the ground that the members take more interest in their work, when allowed to act independently. As regards the conduct of the Zemindars, it is reported that some of the Pubna Zemindars were somewhat unruly in their conduct, but the other Zemindars behaved well. The number of rent-suits in Rungpore has increased from 6 thousand to nearly 8 thousand. Education, as usual, made progress during the year under review.

SIR Drummond Wolff arrives shortly in India. He will come *via* Kurrachi.

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Saturday, 4th October.

FROM the Resolution of the Government of Bengal on Mr. Veasey's Report on the Police Administration for 1889, it would appear that excluding the Railway Police, the sanctioned force in 1889 was 73 superior Officers, 3418 subordinate Officers and 17,365 Constables; but at the close of the year the subordinate Officers were 74 and the Constables 348 under the sanctioned strength. The total expenditure for the year was Rs. 40,81,342, while the expenditure on that portion of the force, that was employed on purely Police duties, was Rs, 26,23,294 or 7·6 pies per head of the population.

THE Bengal Government has reviewed the work, done by Mr. Finucane and his subordinates in the Department of Land Records and Agriculture in Bengal, during the last official year, in a long Resolution. It appears that the departmental head, with the assistance of Mr. B. C. Bose and Mr. N. N. Bannerji, completed the analysis of the Districts of Dacca and Lohardugga, making interesting investigations as to forest and fuel reserves, tree-planting and other kindred subjects. Under the heading of silk experiments and eradication of *febrine*, we are told that the work of the eradication of *febrine* among silk-worms, was carried on, during the year under review, under the supervision of a Committee of merchants, having Sir Alexander Wilson as its President. The success of the experiment was not as great as had been anticipated. Of 7,295 maunds of seeds raised, only about one thousand maunds were sold. The Government paid Rs. 5,000 for this experiment; and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the work will be continued steadily for a series of years, until moderate success is attained in this matter. It appears further that at Burdwan, a bigha of land, manured with one maund of bone-meal, produced *sorghum* in quantity more than double of what may be obtained from an unmanured plot of land. The Shibpore plough and other machines of improved patterns were largely used in some agricultural farms. As regards the use of bones as manure, the Lieutenant Governor observed that it is better to export bone dust, obtaining for it Rs. 2 or Rs. 2 8 a maund than to leave the bones on some deserted spots. The ryots should be made to learn to utilize bone-dust, and we are glad to be told that some of the ryots of Hughly, Burdwan and Dumraon have been gradually induced to use it.

A FRESH attempt is to be made to induce the nations of the world to come to some reasonable understanding on the subject of a common meridian and a universal hour. At the Conference held at Washington, high contracting parties were present to represent the civilised nations of the two hemispheres, and it was thought that common sense would have suggested a common meridian. It seemed that all that was necessary was that all parties should meet. It was found, however, that it was further necessary all parties should agree. England and America suggested Greenwich. They were not entirely arbitrary or unreasonable. If their suggestion had been adopted, England undertook to adopt the French metric system at home and in her colonies. But France declined the concession, and things are as they were. It is Italy that is now coming forward, and it is at Rome that the International Congress will be held.

MR. DADABHAI NOWROJEE'S way to a seat in the House of Commons is not yet by any means free from obstacles, it appears. The *Daily News* recently remarked:—"One, and the only, good result of the division in the Liberal camp in Central Finsbury is that there are competing agencies for the work of looking after the Liberal registration. Mr. Alfred Harper now writes to us claiming that 20, St. John Street Road, the office of the Central Finsbury Liberal and Radical Association, is the place to which Liberals ought to carry their objection papers. The public are, therefore, now in possession of twenty addresses. If the Liberal vote is looked after at both it ought to be well looked after. But what is to be done with it when an election comes? It might as well be presented to the Tory candidate at once as be divided at the poll. The position, as we understand it, is this. Of two candidates claiming to have the favour of the constituency, one was willing to submit to arbitration, the other was not. Ultimately the willing man withdrew, bowing, as he thought, to the force of circumstances. His supporters, of course, would now be free to vote for the other candidate, but so far from being reconciled to him, they are more estranged than ever, attributing to him the loss of their favourite. It ought to be definitely settled, by acceptance of the decision of some impartial committee of investigation, whether there is or is not any hope of union in favour of the present candidate; for if there is not, the alternative of the Liberals in the constituency is to unite on some new candidate, or throw the chance of the seat away.

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THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

(Session 1890-91.)

Lecture by Babu Asutosh Mukerjee, M. A., on *Monday*, the 6th *Inst.*, at 4½ P. M.

Subject: Foundations of the Maxwellian Theory of Light. The Hertzian Vibrator.

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on *Tuesday*, the *7th Inst*, at 7½ P. M.

Subject: The Change of State in Bodies produced by Heat.

Lecture by Babu Asutosh Mukerjee, M. A, on *Wednesday*, the *8th Inst.*, at 4½ P. M.

Subject: Applications of the Maxwellian Theory.

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S. on *Wednesday*, the *8th Inst.*, *at* 4½ P. M.

Subject: Nitrogen and Atmospheric Air.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S. on *Thursday*, the *9th Inst.*, at 4½ P. M.

Subject: Detection of Non-metallic elements.

Lecture by the Rev. Father Lafont, S.J., C.I.E., on *Thursday*, the *9th Inst*, at 7½ P.M.

Subject: The Optical Illusions: of Colour, of Form and Movement. The Dhurrumtollah Metempsychosis explained.

Lecture by Babu Asutosh Mukerjee, M.A, on *Friday*, the *10th Inst.*, at 4½ P M.

Subject: Applications of the Maxwellian Theory

Lecture by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F.C.S. on *Saturday*, the *11th Inst.*, at 4 P. M.

Subject: Ammonia.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
October 4th, 1890. *Honorary Secretary*

The Hindoo Patriot

Monday, October 6, 1890.

THE GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION ON POLICE REFORM.

The result of a scrutiny into, and comparison of, the statistics of crime cognizable by the Police, compiled under orders of Government for the period 1878 to 1888, has shown, as we have in a previous issue noticed, that in Bengal 90 per cent of the most dangerous offences against property remain undetected, that 70 per cent of serious crime goes unpunished, and that the percentage of convictions in heinous offences never exceeded 56. Considering the varying conditions under which the administration of different provinces is carried on, the Government of India left it to the Lieutenant-Governor of these provinces, if he should see fit, to convene a Committee, with a view to enquire minutely into the causes of this highly unsatisfactory state of affairs, and to ascertain by what means remedies capable of being made practically effective can be devised and applied. The Lieutenant-Governor "having regard to the magnitude and importance of the questions involved" and "satisfied that the work is not such as can be properly done without a special agency, or by the deputation of a single officer" has appointed a Committee consisting of Mr. J. Beames, Commissioner, Mr. J. F. Stevens, District Judge, and Mr. J. C. Veasey, Inspector General of Police, all members of the covenanted Civil Service.

The necessity of an extended enquiry into every matter and circumstance affecting the administration, or shall we say mal-administration, of the police in these provinces, has long been felt. The British Indian Association first drew public attention to the subject, it was subsequently taken up by the Provincial Conference, and a year ago the British Indian Association addressed the Government, dwelling on the necessity which existed of appointing a committee of enquiry. The appointment of a Committee has, therefore, not been made a day too soon.

We are not satisfied that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has evinced a warm sympathy for the people whose interests are at stake, or has exercised a just discrimination in selecting officers to sit on the Committee. The feelings which Mr. Beames entertains towards the children of the soil are well-known; the abilities of Mr. Veasey may be measured by the character of the remarks made by the Lieutenant-Governor himself on the Police Report for 1889, and these officers are to be ultimately assisted by Colonel Ramsay of *hairani and pereshani* fame. The wide sympathies and large-heartedness on which the administration was heretofore based are, we have often observed, daily disappearing, and we have noticed with pain their absence, on different occasions, during the present regime.

In our article of the 28th July last on Police Reform, we said that such a Committee as was referred to by the Government of India, "should be forthwith appointed", and that "it should be composed of official and non-official European and Native gentlemen as well." We added—"officers of ability and standing are certainly likely to bring their knowledge and experience of the capabilities and worth of the police to bear with considerable weight on the questions involved, but non-official gentlemen are better able to appreciate the feelings and instincts of the people in their contact with the force, always dreaded and often shunned, and a mixed Committee is the best that can be appointed under the circumstances." We are very sorry that such a mixed Committee has not been appointed. The Lieutenant-Governor himself admits not only the necessity "for bringing wide experience to bear upon" the questions at issue, but also "for looking at them from different points of view." He further "fully recognises the necessity of obtaining from the public all the information as to facts and all the advice for future action which can be made available for his assistance," inasmuch as "it is for the advantage of the the public and for the protection of their lives and property," and "to save them from oppression and needless harassment, that the present enquiries are being undertaken," and he "quite understands that they have opportunities of observing Police work from points of view which are not accessible to officials." Judging from these premises, the natural and logical inference would be that the public ought to be represented on the Committee. That the Lieutenant Governor should nevertheless be of opinion that a small *official* Committee would be the best under the circumstances, cannot but be strongly condemned; it exhibits a lamentable want of sympathy for the people whose wants can best be brought forward to notice by their representative. Men of mature experience, who have often come into contact with the police and understand their capabilities and methods of action, may always be found, and the presence of such men on the Committee would be invaluable from the moment when enquiries begin to be directed and information collected. Does Mr. Beames, from his experience of the Salaries Commission and of the protests made by a native member thereof, fear to have a 'black man' near his throne in the Committee. A sop is thrown out that the Committee may be hereafter enlarged, but this would be perfectly useless and unjust to the new members themselves.

We are distinctly of opinion that a mistake has been 'committed—a mistake affecting seriously the character of the enquiries to be made and the nature of the information to be collected, and we must urge that the mistake cannot too soon be rectified.

Turning to the observations made by the Lieutenant-Governor in para 7 of the Resolution we find it said that, "as are the people so are the Police." Is the principle of having English police to control Irish people to be introduced in this country? Sympathetic administrators once thought that men foreign to the soil could not be expected to understand the people, and their presence in the police force, while it effected no good, caused much evil. Is that idea, or as much of it as is workable with benefit, to be altogether cast aside? "The people have but a faintly developed sense of public morality, of the far-reaching duties of the individual towards the public at large, they view without reprobation the giving and taking of bribes, they will not interest themselves in matters outside their immediate personal concerns to oppose oppression or blackmail, or false evidence or other offences against the public." That His Honor should give expression to these platitudes after thirty-five years' experience of the country is what surprises us most. If the people were not such as they are described to be, they would be the most civilized people on the earth, instead of being as a body illiterate and barbarous, and the very best among whom are but half-witted and half civilized. Bengal coolies have been found, far away in Jamaica, more docile and laborious than sturdy Negroes, and our people at large work quietly and ploddingly from morn to eve to eke out a living and have no time to sport the patriot and meddle in affairs which do not concern them. Bribery may not be known in England from the days of Lord Verulam to the present time, but it is the resort of the weak against the strong, and so long as the police are uneducated, unscrupulous, and oppressive it will have full sway. Truth may be a rarity in this country, as Mr. Macpherson holds, but perhaps he has never seen the statement made that the article is daily disappearing from the courts in England, and as for general sympathy with public justice there. we have yet to learn that persons, cognisant of the commission of a crime, always volunteer their evidence. Education is the only remedy, Mr. Macpherson goes on to add; but education, says a political agent in Central India, spoils manners, and in the opinion of the ruler of the Central Provinces, it is an incentive towards inundating the public "with torrents of mischievous and frothy declamations." The Lieutenant-Governor, however, shows wisdom enough to consider the conditions inevitable, and says that the only problem to be solved is how to obtain better Magistrates, better District police and better Village police.

The Government of India said that the Native Magistracy was weak, but the Lieutenant-Governor gives it faint praise by saying that he is by no means disposed to sympathise with the sweeping denunciations of it which he sometimes sees. He believes that the Magistrates receive very little education of a kind specially adapted to fit them for their duties on the bench, while a Munsif has better advantages in that respect. This is perhaps true to some extent, but has the Deputy Magistrate of European descent, has even the European Assistant Magistrate, a better training for the bench? If not, what constitutes the difference between the Native Magistrates and the Magistrates of European descent whom both the Government of India and the Government of Bengal would have in numbers in the Subordinate Executive Service? The difference is not in color, for Mr. Ingleson may be a shade tawnier than Babu Brahmaputra, but we know where the difference lies,—the Native Magistrate, though pestered by the European Superentendent of Police, and talked over, to put it mildly, by the District Magistrate, always endeavours to act according to the law, while the Magistrate claiming a foreign descent tries to imitate the sturdiness, nay recklessness, of his progenitors, howsoever removed in degree, falls in with *hairan* and *pereshan* views and acts with 'vigor beyond the law.' If Deputy Magistrates had the training of Munsifs, the whole Police would rise up against their laying down the *law*, and the cry for "damn-the-legality" Magistrates will be greater than ever. The Deputy Magistrate is often between two fires; if he acts in consonance with the views of the executive, he is hauled up before the High Court, but if he abides by the law and there are acquittals, he becomes the subject of 'denunciations' which are too often 'sweeping.' No one will be surprised to find that a case often fails through the sheer inefficiency of the Police, from the highest to the lowest grade, when he recollects how the case which made the gallant Colonel in the police famous was conducted; there was literally no evidence to support the prosecution, still the supposed offenders were subjected to durance vile. But allowing that Native Magistrates are as bad as they are represented to be, Sir Steuart Bayley and his predecessors who appointed them must have a share of the blame. How is it that all that they have done to improve the service has culminated in producing miserable failures? Their knowledge of the country in which they have spent a life-time, their experience and fore-sight, their administrative capabalities are all at fault. Why does not Sir Steuart wait till the recommedations of the Public Service Commission are fairly carried out? But he must have better

Magistrates in six months' time, before the end of which he will have been translated to another sphere; and in the meantime he will have the satisfaction of flooding the service with Indo-Europeans in preference to Natives, pure and simple.

As to the means of getting a better District police, it is some satisfaction to us to find that "neither the names nor the scale of pay suggested by the Government of India are to be taken as final." We expressed our repugnance to Head Constables being entrusted with the investigation of cases. We said that they should be relegated to the duties of watch and ward, while men of education and status should be induced to enter the service as Sub-Inspectors or Inspectors who alone should be investigating officers. "The higher title does in practice," the Lieutenant Governor, we are glad to find believes, "connotes a higher standard." We are sorry, however, that the prospects of pay and promotion are not likely to be laid down on any extended scale, for financial considerations are placed in mid-way and only recommendations involving a moderate increase in expenditure are proposed to be accepted. If they are not settled in a liberal spirit, it were as well that the Committee had not been appointed. Not only the pay and allowances of the force, but its numerical strength ought to be increased, while those of the superior officers might, if needed, be reduced. We pointed out in our previous article that, while the cost per 100 of population in Bengal was 5·8, in Madras it was 10·8 and in Bombay 19·6. The cost in Bengal ought to be doubled if the professions of saving life and property, freeing the people from harassment and oppession have any value; a cheese-paring policy will never do any great good.

The state of the Village police is certainly far from satisfactory, and the question of its improvement is doubtless very important and at the same time most difficult; its solution, as the Resolution states, is not attempted for the first time. Able and experienced officers of Government have from time to time been employed in enquiring into the matter and suggesting remedies, but the question remains as far from solution as ever. Is it to be expected that a trio of officials, who cannot, so far as we can see, lay claim to the possession of a superior order of intelligence and knowledge to what their predecessors were gifted with—is it to be expected that the Committee constituted as it is, will be able to set the question at rest? As we said before, "there are points regarding the relation of the Chowkidar with the village community and the influence of the Zemindar, which require patient deliberation, and a mixed Committee can alone determine how all the interests involved can best be subserved." Non-official gentlemen, who have moved among the people and who are intimately conversant with these interests, and the way in which they operate to the success or detriment of police work, ought to be found to aid in the deliberations if they are to be conducted to a successful issue. The advice of one, whose main doctrine in reference to police administration is *hairan and pereshan*, may not be quite suitable in the matter.

THE MADRAS AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

WE reviewed in a recent issue the working of the Bengal Agricultural Department during the past official year, and showed that the Department has so far done nothing to justify its existence. We had then occasion to refer briefly to the failure of the corresponding Department in Madras; but this subject requires a more extended consideration. The reader may remember that a little more than a year ago Lord Connemara, who, like his brother the late lamented Earl of Mayo, has a practical knowledge of agriculture and takes a deep interest in it, appointed a special Committee for the purpose of instituting 'a comprehensive enquiry into the past working of the Agricultural Department and the College of Agriculture, and to make suggestions for the conduct of operations in future." The importance of the task entrusted to the Committee cannot be over-rated. The Provincial Agricultural Bureaus have now been in existence for a sufficiently long time to enable the public to form a correct judgment on the results of their practical working. But then, every Provincial Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Chief Commissioner in India is not an authority on agricultural matters like Lord Connemara, nor takes the same interest in them as his Lordship. It is very desirable that in view of the results which have been obtained by the recent enquiry into the working of the Madras Agricultural Department, a similar investigation should be instituted in the other provinces. But if this step be not found practicable, all provincial rulers would do well to study carefully the Report of the Madras Agricultural Committee and the orders which Lord Connemara has recorded on it.

One of the questions referred to the Committee for enquiry was:—"What benefit has accrued, or is likely to accrue, to the cultivating classes, from the Department as at present constituted?" In replying to this important question the Committee has very little that is favourable to report. Indeed, as our contemporary of the *Statesman* has justly remarked, "failure seems to be inscribed in big letters on the Department and the influence it has exerted. The so-called improved agricultural implements introduced by the Department have not found favour with the ryot; and its efforts towards the improvement of the breeds of cattle, sheep and horses have not been attended with any success worth the name. The stock depot started by the Department has proved a signal failure and led rather to the deterioration than the improvement of stock. In the matter of agricultural education the results have been similarly disappointed. The Committee thus writes on this subject in its Report: "The only agency that has been at work is the College of Agriculture at Saidapet, which, though it has failed in directly influencing agriculture, is considered to have given a fair return to the country for the money spent on it. The class of students that attend it are either land-holders or members of landholding families; but out of 187 Saidapet graduates, only 39 are engaged in farming. The Saidapet College has not, therefore, been an unqualified success, though it seems to have done some good in advertising the necessity for improvement in agricultural operations." The Committee admits that all the good which the Saidapet College has done is, that it has awakened an interest which possibly might have sprung up independently. As regards the Saidapet Farm, where experiments have been conducted at considerable cost with a view to show how the agricultural methods of the country can be improved, the practical results are insignificant. The ryot has not yet been convinced of the value of deep tillage and the possibility of growing fodder crops. The Farm, it should be borne in mind, lacked the necessary machinery and organization. It was also isolated and wanting in almost all the means of access to and by the people. The Committee after a careful enquiry into the past working of the Madras Agricultural Department, has been driven by the very force of facts to admit that "the amount of real good secured by all the efforts of the past has been infinitesimal, and the greater part of the money which has been spent on agricultural improvement and education has been wasted. With the best intentions on the part of various Governments, all endeavours to advance practical agricultural education have failed and the only result of the operations of the Department has been the awakening of an interest which possibly might have sprung up independently." This candid confession does honour to the members of the Committee. When the Government of India called upon the late lamented Sir Ashley Eden to establish an Agricultural Bureau in his satrapy, he recorded a scathing Minute in which he mercilessly showed up the uselessness of the proposal. He wrote:—"I have for many years past followed with interest the various experiments which have from time to time been made, under the orders of the Government of India, in respect to the establishment of model farms, and the conclusion at which I have arrived (which appears to be in accordance with the general conclusion on the subject) is that, with scarcely an exception the experiments have signally failed, and that it has been shown that those, who were employed to teach the people agriculture, had more to learn from the people than the people from them. * * * Many of the experiments relate to matters which can have no real bearing, direct or indirect, on agricultural improvements, and can certainly convey no lesson to the agricultural community; while those which have succeeded, such as the Poosah farm and the sugar mills, are successes of which uneducated and ignorant Bengal, and certain private European firms may clearly claim the credit." The Government of India was, of course, not convinced by Sir Ashley Eden's incisive logic, and an Agricultural Department was created for Bengal as soon as he vacated the Belvedere *musnad*. But the position which he took up a dozen years ago has been conclusively established by the Report of the Madras Agricultural Committee. And we have no hesitation whatever in saying that if a thorough enquiry be made in all other provinces into the working of the Agricultural Department, it will be found that its results have been much the same as in the Southern Presidency.

We have said above that the Committee appointed by Lord Connemara was instructed not only to enquire into the past working of the Agricultural Department and the Saidapet College, but also to make suggestions for the conduct of operations in future. In performing the second part of their task, the Committee has made certain recommendations. Though accepting some of their recommendations in principle, Lord Connemara characterises some of their leading proposals as too elaborate and not adapted to the circumstances of the country. The chief features of the policy proposed by the Committee are thus summarised: *First*, the institution of a careful and definite system of inquiry into existing practices; *secondly*, experiments under trained agriculturists, and the demonstration of results to the ryots; and *lastly* a comprehensive scheme of agricultural education. As to the question of education which is the most important point for consideration, the Committee proposes the establishment of a Central College for the training of agricultural experts and teachers, and the provision of veterinary education. In reference to agricultural instruction in schools, the Committee recommends the institution of special scholarships in connection with agriculture, which is now taught in some of the Government schools as an optional subject. Lord Connemara admits the necessity of agricultural instruction in order to obtain an improved agricultural system; but his Lordship does not approve the plan proposed by the Committee. He rightly holds that the Committee's scheme is not adapted to the circumstances of the country, and points out that a system that may work well in Europe may yet be wholly unsuitable for India. Enthusiastic agricultural reformers in this country are never tired of dilating on the conservatism of the ryot and his unwillingness to depart from the ways of his forefathers. But men like Lord Connemara, who possess personal knowledge, recognise the numerous difficulties that have to be encountered in overcoming the prejudices of peasant farmers in Great Britain and Ireland, who dislike any innovation or departure from traditional practice. Such being the case, his Lordship pertinently observes that "the long established usages of the cultivating classes, partly founded on ignorance, partly on poverty, and partly on custom, to which they adhere with the tenacity of religious conviction, can only be changed or removed, when desirable, by special teaching and demonstration, and by instructors who can plainly show the people that new methods are real improvements adapted to Indian agriculture, apart from systems sanctioned by Western theories and Western practice." Inspite of all that we hear of the conservatism of the Indian ryot in the matter of tillage, experience has conclusively shown that he has readily adopted new methods whenever he has been convinced of their utility. He does not of course believe with the enthusiastic reformer that every change is necessarily an improvement; but he is a very careful observer and judges by actual results and not by theories. In connection with agricultural instruction in this country, we cannot too carefully bear in mind Lord Mayo's declaration that it would be useless to teach the Indian ryot what he already knows, or what he

has not the means of carrying out into practice. The soundness of this view cannot be questioned by any sensible and right-minded person. Experiments in model farms should be conducted in accordance with the principle laid down by Lord Mayo. It would be sheer waste of time, money and energy to demonstrate to the ryot the value of improved methods of tillage which it is impossible for him to adopt. The practical farmer, whose object is to produce a satisfactory balance-sheet, knows from sad experience that improved farming does always pay, and that a larger gross yield may be accompanied with smaller net profits. Artificial manures may increase the production, but they cannot be had for nothing, and it is often doubtful whether the increased production will balance the outlay. The same remark applies to drainage, machinery, and other agricultural improvements. The would-be agricultural reformer in India must remember that the ryot does not cultivate to advance science but to live. He cannot afford to follow the advice of irresponsible theorists who have plenty of public money at their disposal to indulge in their fads. The ryot is too poor to make any risky experiments. A good deal of money has been wasted on the experiments of which the model farms of India have been the scene. These experiments have not so far yielded any results worth the name, and it is high time that they were discontinued. We do not deny the immense progress which agricultural chemistry has made since the beginning of the century; but it is also notorious that, "relying on the advice of over-sanguine theorists and enthusiastic agricultural reformers, the farmers in England have wasted enormous sums of money on so-called improved methods of tillage, and have at last found out their mistake.

INCIDENCE OF THE LAND TAX IN INDIA.

IN the course of his speech on the Budget debate Sir John Gorst stated that the land revenue is so mild in its incidence in India that it only amounts to one-half the net value of the rent. Mr. Seymour Keay, who has for years made this subject his special study, naturally felt it his duty to question the correctness of the statement made by the Under-Secretary of State for India. The provinces which do not enjoy the blessings of Lord Cornwallis's Permanent Settlement constitute five-sevenths of British India, and Mr. Keay, of course, spoke of them. In these provinces the revenue-demand is periodically revised, and we need hardly say that each revision results in an increase of the assessment. The method of fixing the assessment was thus briefly described by Mr. Keay in his place in the House of Commons:—"Now I take it that he [Sir John Gorst] means that an attempt was made to discover in the first place what was the gross rent—that is to say, the gross produce of the land. There is then an attempt to deduct from it the expenses which the tenant farmer, if I may so describe him, has had to pay, and then they consider that a certain amount is left in his pocket out of which they desire to take the half leaving the other half in his possession. What I want to bring specially before the attention of the right hon'ble gentleman is this: I want to say—if there were time I could easily prove—that instead of the land tax at present enforced being only one-half the net rent it is immeasurably more, sometimes it over-steps it so much that in many parts of India the cultivators are at present living on the little capital that the country possesses and are getting more and more into the hands of the usurer. I want to explain to the right hon'ble gentleman how he is deceived in this matter by the official documents. First of all, there is an absurd attempt made to find out the gross produce of a holding or of a district. There is what is called a crop experiment by the revenue officer. The officer goes down and he looks at a district. He picks out a field which in his judgment appears to be an average field with growing corn upon it. Then he picks out a few yards of what he thinks an average amount of growing corn, and he then orders that the whole field shall be measured and the corn cut. The result, of course, is obvious. They thrash out the corn which is cut from these three or four yards and they multiply the result by the whole extent. That is the absurd way in which they get at the gross value of the holding. You have now got to deduct some reasonable amount for the sustenance of the cultivator and his family in order to find what is the net rent. This, again, is done in the most grossly unjust manner. I can point to the right hon'ble gentleman proofs that in nine cases out of ten instead of allowing the Indian cultivator for produce that he and his family would reasonably eat, they made a calculation as absurd as that which the Chief Secretary for Ireland made in regard to the Irish Land Purchase Bill."

Of course, Mr. Keay could not for want of time, produce the proofs to which he referred; but the position which he took up has been satisfactorily established before. It is notorious that Settlement officers fix the land tax according to certain purely theoretical rules anually, totally wrong in principle, and which in fact, merely amount to an elaborate system of guess work. Apologists of the Indian Government like Sir John Strachey and Sir Henry Cunningham would have the British public believe that the land revenue in this country is so mild in its incidence that it only amounts to 10 or 12 per cent of the gross produce, and never exceeds 50 per cent of the net produce. It is true that the Secretary of State laid down in 1864 the principle that the tax should never exceed one-half of what is called *the true rent* that is the net produce of the land after defraying all costs of cultivation, including the bare maintenance of the cultivator and his family. This rule, no doubt, exists on paper, but it is more honoured in the breach than in the observance. The Settlement officer whose merits are judged by the amount of money he can ingeniously sweep into the Treasury, speaking generally, over-estimates the gross produce of the ryot's holding and the price at which it can be sold, and he under-estimates the expenses of cultivation including the cost of the bare maintenance of the cultivator and his family. We have shown above in Mr. Keay's words, how the gross produce of the soil is estimated by the Settlement Officer, and the method followed by him in ascertaining its price was thus described by Mr. Keay, a few years ago, in another place:—"A list is made of the mere prices of grain nominally obtaining in the different villages throughout the district without taking the least account of the respective quantities sold in each village. A fallacious average is then made by adding all the prices together and dividing by the number of villages. Practically all the grain in the district is and must be disposed of in one or two large markets at low prices, whereas higher but purely nominal prices invariably obtain in small and remote villages where little or no grain exists." While the ingenious and over-zealous Settlement officer deliberately over-estimates the outturn of the ryot's holding and the price at which it can be sold, he grossly under-estimates the expenses of cultivation. It will scarcely be believed, but it is nevertheless true, that in the Bombay Presidency the Settlement officer allows the ryot bare sustenance for half a man and one bullock during nine months, that is to say, about one-seventh part of the true cost of cultivation. It is needless to say that an ordinary ryot with an average-sized holding of 10 acres, has a wife and children, and that these and a pair of bullocks must be maintained throughout the year. The Settlement officer, however, ignores this fact.

Sir John Gorst does not probably know that the late Sir Bartle Frere, who cannot surely be accused of any bias against the Indian Government, has declared in plain terms that throughout India the rule as to taking only one-half of the ryot's net produce is habitually broken, and that the Secretary of State's ruling of 1864 has become "a mere paper instruction." If Sir John should look into the records of the India Office he will find a Minute recorded by Sir Bartle Frere in 1875 when he was a member of the Secretary of State's Council. In that State paper Sir Bartle divided the ryots of the Bombay Presidency into three classes:—*First*, those who pay a land tax absorbing a varying proportion of the net produce; *Secondly*, those who pay a full rent, leaving nothing to the cultivator but the wages of his labour and the interest on his capital: *Thirdly*, those who pay a full rent and something more trenching on the wages of labour or the profits of capital. The late Sir Louis Mallett, who was then Permanent Under-Secretary at the India Office, in reviewing Sir Bartle Frere's three classes, himself added a fourth class in these words:—"In many cases lands have been assessed which yield no rent at all, and barely pay the cost of cultivation." Sir William Wedderburn, who has for years made the land question in the Deccan his special study, has added a fifth class. He writes:—"We must regret fully to add yet a fifth and more grievous case, class 5, where the crop is insufficient to pay the cost of cultivation, and where the assessment must be paid out of wages earned elsewhere, or from cash obtained from money-lenders." And yet in the teeth of these facts which have been plainly admitted in official documents, Sir John Gorst has the hardihood to assert that the land revenue in India is so mild in its incidence that it only amounts to one-half of the net value of the rent.

A FRENCHMAN ON THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

THE writer of an interesting paper in the *Revue Bleve* of 2nd August last, takes an appreciative view of the Indian National Congress movement. He gives a short account of the fifth Congress, which met at Bombay in December last. "In this concourse," says the writer, "mingled the most diverse types and costumes—Parsees wearing a hat shaped like a truncated cone; and a black or white silk frockcoat; Hindus in their multi-coloured and embroidered robes; Mussulmans and Sikhs with their ample turbans and embroidered vests; Eurasians and Anglo-Indians *en veston*; pure-bred Englishmen, in all the shades of the Indian skin, from pink and white to absolute black, as well as the intermediate tones—brown sallowness, and plain yellow." Before giving a *resume* of the deliberations of the Fifth National Congress, the writer briefly explains the aims and objects of the movement. He pointed out that Western education has created new political aspirations in the minds of the educated Hindus and Mussulmans. "What good purpose," he pertinently asks, "could the spread of education serve if it did not facilitate the employment of larger numbers of Hindus and Mahomedans in the administration? Promises in this sense had been made and not kept. Questions relating to the distribution and incidence of taxation were examined, and people began to ask whether the product of these imposts was or was not wisely employed. The great Anglo-Indian administrative machine with its enormous expense, its traditions of pomp and arbitrary power was arraigned. The local associations scattered throughout the length and breadth of the country were invited to nominate delegates to meet on a given day to study the means by which the Government itself might be reformed. The National Congress had thus its birth. It was born under high auspices. A statesman like Lord Ripon; high officials like Mr. Hume and Sir William Wedderburn, openly encouraged these undisguised aspirations towards more liberal institutions. These gentlemen frankly recognised the legitimacy as well as the necessity of an effectual control over the natural expenditure. The broad and generous policy of the then Viceroy favoured the growth of public opinion." Well does the writer in the *Revue Bleve* say that the destinies of India have not always been confided to statesmen as liberal-minded as Lord Ripon. The average Anglo-Indian official, indeed, sighs for a return of the good old days when University graduates were unknown. He bitterly deplores the error committed in spreading broadcast Western literature and science among the people of India. He would, if he could, close to-morrow all the higher educational institutions in the country. It is only natural that he should contend that nothing good or useful could proceed from any movement directed against the established order of things so dear for many reasons to the officials of all classes and countries.

The Indian bureaucrat would have the British public believe that the delegates to the Congress represent no body but themselves, and that they

have not the smallest right to speak in the name of the Indian people. He, indeed, goes further and asserts that there is not really an Indian people, and that the promoters of the Congress movement are much more anxious to satisfy their own ambitions than to bring out an amelioration of the condition of the masses; and that what they really want is appointments. These objections have been satisfactorily answered by the French writer. He observes:—"This line of argument is, of course, specious, and the conservative journals in England, who have thoughtlessly used it as a weapon, overlook one great historical fact. However far we go back it must be admitted that the political movements which have succeeded were those in which the instigators were men who had profited by the abuses which they sought to destroy. It was not from the poor and the miserable, as much accustomed to servitude as to their rags, that arose when the time came, the eloquent voices destined to overthrow tyranny, to delivér the first and most effective blows against wrong. Such defections from the classes as those, for example, of Mirabeau and Condorcet, called in France 'workers in the first hour of the Revolution,' are the glory of the human mind. Why, then, should not those learned men, Pandit Ajodhyanath, a powerful orator whose flights of eloquence are really superb, and Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee, a philosopher of most persuasive speech, and of noble and generous soul, fill the role of tribune or *inspirateur*? And why should it not be given to India to see reflected and affirmed in harangues and language that many of its children do not understand and cannot comprehend the latent aspirations of an entire people towards a brighter and better-ordained future?" These thoughtful and sensible observations we commend to the Anglo-Indian opponents of the National Congress movement and their supporters in England. These gentlemen, as the French writer justly remarks, have as much dread of the National Congress as their grandfathers had of Napolean. They impute to the Congress everything that goes wrong in India, even the affrays in the streets of Madras as well as the rising of the barbarous *kols* in the province of Chota Nagpore.

With a view to enable the readers of the *Revue Bleve* to estimate at their true worth the puerile criticisms passed upon the Congress, the writer reviews briefly the proceedings of its last Session. He truly says of the President, Sir William Wedderburn, as a high official of British India, who is very popular in the Bombay Presidency. During his 25 years' service Sir William devoted himself to improving the condition of the people of Western India. The writer thus describes the scene in the Congress pavilion:—"Marvellous spectacle, equal in a sense to that of our States General when the nobility and clergy united *antiers*, is this singular gathering not wanting in colour, an improvised constituent assembly speaking even the sacred language—Sanskrit. The Parsee, turning in his prayers towards the rising sun; the neo-Catholic with the scapular round his neck; the Protestant, the follower of Mahomed, the worshipper of Vishnu and Siva; the disciple of Brahmo-Somaj, the unique God, almost the unknown God of the Athenians, the child of Nanak and Gobind, those prophets of the warlike Sikhs, and lastly, Buddhists from the Himalaya region, meet together, associated by the same thought, that of claiming political rights according to the formula given to the West by England herself!" After giving a *resume* of the Fifth National Congress, the French writer remarks:—"The success of the Fifth National Congress, as is universally recognised, surpassed the preceding re-unions, and we must not forget the unfavourable prognostications of the Governmental press. No sign of sedition or revolutionary feeling can be found either in the speeches or resolutions. It cannot be denied that we are here in presence of a legal agitation which is as much as the representative institutions of England a part of the patrimony of its liberties. * * * * Will the opposition, interested and natural, of the Government of British India prevail against the views enunciated with such praiseworthy moderation in favour of a modified representation of the populations? Or shall we soon learn that the imposition of taxes and the appropriation of nearly two milliards are in future to be under the rightful control of the representatives of the country?" It is for the British Parliament, which is the ultimate arbiter of the destinies of India, to answer this question. England has undertaken the government of one-sixth of the entire human race inhabiting this country. She may well be proud of the noble work she has so far done in India; but much still remains to be done before her mission in this country can be accomplished.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

Two Memorials, numerously and influentially signed, have been presented to His Excellency the Viceroy and to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, praying that the decision regarding the Durga Puja holidays be reconsidered. Let us hope that the representation which has thus been made will be carefully considered.

"MR. MACKENZIE'S chance of the Lieutenant-Governorship is said to be in the ascendant." Thus spoke the *Englishman* one morning. Mr. Mackenzie's claim to the Belvedere *musnud* is of course great and unquestioned. Added to his brilliant abilities and active sympathy with the people, he has complete experience of Bengal, which is wanting in some of the other candidates. But that Mr. Mackenzie will be our future ruler is yet anything but certain, for Sir David Barbour, who, we are told, has the refusal of the appointment, may after all accept it.

Mr. L. A. S. PORTER, C. S., has been appointed to act as Deputy Secretary in the Legislative Department, during the absence of Mr. Macpherson on leave. Mr. Porter has had several years' experience of Secretariat work in the North-West Provinces.

THE Revenue and Agricultural Department of the Government of India will close at Simla on the 3rd of November, and re-open in Calcutta on the 10th.

THE Police Courts are expected to remove to the new buildings at Lalbazar on the 1st of November.

THE Emperor William met with a most remarkable reception at Vienna. His Majesty's progress through the streets was a triumphal one, and much enthusiasm was displayed by the enormous crowd along the route.

LORD WOLESLEY met with a grand ovation in Dublin, on his arrival to take over the Command of the Forces from Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar.

THE Mofussil Municipalities, at all events their servants, make a grievance of Mr. Cotton's circular letter to Divisional Commissioners that pension rules are to have no retrospective effect. They appeal to the precedent laid down by the Calcutta Municipality, not however with any force that we can perceive. One anomaly does not justify another, and the practice adopted by the Calcutta Corporation does not appear sound. Its officers are notoriously fat-salaried, and the liberal scale was fixed having regard to the absence of pension and graded system, because worthy outsiders under the existing conditions could not be induced to accept its service at a low salary. When these conditions were changed and the pension system was introduced, the *raison a'tre* of the liberal scale of pay was strangely enough forgotten and further waste of the rate-payers' money was sanctioned as if both fat salaries and pension rules were in the natural order of things. Compared to the Calcutta Corporation, therefore, the Mofussil Municipal servants may be admitted to have some sort of grievance.

THE Governor of Madras turned the first sod of the East Coast Railway at Bezwada on the 1st instant. In the course of his address His Excellency said the line, when the Mahanuddy branch was completed, would be the means of distributing to the south the produce of the Central Provinces, which was of great importance for famine protection and the equalisation of the prices of grain. He did not anticipate the line would injure the sea traffic. He hoped the Government of India would sanction the bridging of River Godavery, instead of the ferry as now arranged. He also hoped the Governments of Bengal and India would sanction an extension from Cuttack northwards, as, beyond everything, he desired a broad-gauge line between Madras and Calcutta.

THE political troubles in Portugal which have been unpleasantly brought home to us in India by the late tragedy in Goa, are likely to have far-reaching results. The Spanish Government, fearing that the present agitation in Portugal may end in a revolution, has decided to mass troops on the frontier.

AN important Commission has been appointed in St. Petersburgh to consider the position of the Jews in Russia. Whatever 'political' reasons there may be for harshly dealing with the Jews, unrighteousness will never end well.

AT Thursday's meeting of the Legislative Council Sir Andrew Scoble introduced a bill to amend the Criminal Procedure Bill of 1882. In doing so he said:

'Under the present Code power is given to Magistrates in certain cases to award persons who have been victims of vexatious complaints compensation not exceeding fifty rupees, but the law extends to summons cases only, and at the suggestion of the High Court of Allahabad it is proposed to extend its scope to cover all cases liable to be treated summarily under Chapter 22 of the Code. If the power to award compensation is, however, to be limited to those Magistrates only to whom the exercise of summary jurisdiction is entrusted, the measure will be greatly impaired, and therefore this power is to be conferred on Magistrates generally, the accused being enabled to appeal against the decision of those of the second and third class. In all cases, before making an order for payment of compensation, the Magistrates shall give complainant an opportunity of showing cause against it, and shall place on record objections urged against it and his reasons for making the same. "The Bombay Government," the Hon. Mover continued, "reports that the habit of making frivolous complaints in Criminal Courts is common and increasing, and the expense of putting an adversary to shame is cheaper in the Criminal than in the Civil Court." I have not been surprised to learn that proposals have been made to allow a summary award of compensation in cases of false charges generally. But the law provides a more appropriate punishment for flagrant offences of this kind, and the desire to find a summary remedy for a growing evil ought not to lead the Legislature to affix to a serious crime a lower penalty than the law now awards. The operation of the Bill is accordingly limited to charges of comparatively trivial offences, which may be summarily dealt with in which the law has been set in motion for insufficient reason"

To show that Hindu social system is at fault some reforming contemporaries have been extracting the following filth from the recent Police Resolution:

In Hughly a school pandit, afterwards shown to be insane, hacked his wife, a girl of 13, about the head with a *katari* because she would not or could not satisfy his desires. In Nuddea a husband killed his wife, a sickly girl of 12, for refusing to cohabit. In Maldah a man throttled his child wife, aged 11, because she could not satisfy his lust. He was treated with extraordinary leniency by the Judge, who gave him two months' imprisonment for hurt—a sentence enhanced by the High Court to two years for culpable homicide. In Hughly, again, a young wife of 15 refused to cohabit with her husband, and died from effects of the savagery with which that husband and his two brothers branded her in and about her private parts. In the remaining cases of wife-murder the ages of the victims are not given, but a further case in which a girl of 14 was chopped to death by her father-in-law on suspicion of misbehaviour may be mentioned here.

The last case at all events does not help our reformers much and some of the other cases are

clearly capable of classification under the same head if all the facts connected therewith were before us. The last but one case, that of the savagery of three brothers, hardly looks Hindu, and we have no information as what nationalities the other cases have reference to. The *insane* pandit's case is not pertinent either. Throw enough dirt and some of it is sure to stick on—this is the dodge which our would be reformers are trying now.

REGARDING the Ripon College case our Allahabad contemporary writes:—"The Government of India are placed in the position at the present moment of judging between the Syndicate and the Senate, and they will have to decide which is the more worthy of support. The vote in the Senate, it must be remembered, was only secured by the narrow majority of three, there being 35 members who supported the action of the executive authority. What the result will be we cannot venture to anticipate, but if it is adverse to the Syndicate, only one course can be open to them—the prompt resignation of office, as their executive authority will have been hopelessly discredited." Our worthy Syndics will of course know how to rate at its proper worth this suggestion of a perverse course. Practically there is no point of difference between the Senate and the Syndicate, for the former has not over-ruled what the latter suggested. The debate has only been put off for three months. Divide and conquer may be a good maxim at Allahabad, but it is not likely to be acceptable at Simla.

A COMMITTEE which has been formed at New York and which includes the names of ex-President Hayes and ex-President Cleveland, has issued an eloquent appeal for funds towards the relief of the famine in Ireland. The *Times* is enraged at it and in commenting on the appeal, describes it as impudent and mendacious, as no famine exists in Ireland. The article adds that it is merely bidding for the Irish vote. Government in every country, particularly their accredited organs, seem to take a particular pleasure in underestimating scarcity when it arises.

IT is stated that Sir Henry Drummond Wolff is seriously ill at Teheran. He will proceed home at once, and will not, therefore, visit India.

MR. WESTMACOTT has recently been visiting the flooded tracts, and during his Honor's short stay in Calcutta on his way to Darjeeling, the Lieutenant Governor had an interview with him as well as the Divisional Magistrates of Jessore, Nadia and the 24 Pergunnahs. The necessary relief measures were discussed and decided upon. But matters must not rest here and it is gratifying to note that Sir Steuart Bayley means to have a sifting enquiry into the sufferings caused by the late inundations. His Honor has with great promptitude deputed Mr. P. Nolan, Secretary in the Revenue Department, to make a careful local enquiry into the extent of the loss which the crops in these Provinces have suffered either from inundation or drought in the different districts. The floods are subsiding and the season would now be favourable for such enquiries. The scope of the enquiry may, however, well be enlarged and the sources of inundation in the different tracts may also be ascertained so that measures may be devised for their prevention in future so far as possible. The floods are no longer confined to any particular district and seem to have become an annual institution of extensive dimensions. The recent Resolution of the Government as regards the Damuda and Midnapur inundations are not satisfactory and their early reconsideration seems to be imperatively necessary. The time has come when the public and Government must make united and earnest endeavours for preventing these annual calamities. Government Engineers with one-sided views of things may declare impossibilities where honest and devoted work may easily achieve possibilities. No half-hearted measures, of course, are likely to do when the stake is so large and a proper system of protective embankments and canals will cost money. Statistical reports by themselves will not prevent floods or alleviate distress, but reliable facts and figures are excellent things to start with. Mr. Nolan has exceptional qualifications for the work he has been deputed to perform, and we are glad to hear that he has taken up the enquiry in right earnest. Distress in the meantime is acute in the affected tracts and immediate relief should be adequate, whatever the outcome of the enquiry may be. We are not without hopes that the close of Sir Steuart Bayley's *regime* will be marked with enlightened and liberal departure from the conservative and mischievous inundation policy of the Government.

DURING Mr. Nolan's absence on deputation Mr. Buckland will officiate for him in the Secretariat.

A MEMORIAL has been sent to the Government of India by the principal firms of manufacturing engineers and iron-founders of India, pointing out the great hardship they labour under owing to the ruling by which all stores for public purposes have to be purchased through the Secretary of State. In the time of Lord Ripon an effort was made to give local industries encouragement whenever it could be done without loss to the State, but the Finance Commission in 1886-87 reversed the system, apparently finding on the evidence before them that purchases were in England the most economical. The memorial does not urge that the decision then come to was against the evidence, but it submits that circumstances have changed, and that such a hard and fast rule is not desirable. Stores required for public works by large municipalities are purchased in the public tender system. The same system might well be adopted by Government, for otherwise progress of work is sometimes seriously delayed, and loss is incurred owing to the restricted powers which prevent Government from purchasing what they want in the local market. The Government have at times pretended some anxiety for the development of local industries and may now give practical proof of their solicitude. Numerous native artisans earning good wages are employed by these engineering firms, and their occupation would be gone if these industries are thus handicapped. If, of course, there are economic grounds for giving preference to English firms the local firms may well be asked to revise their rates which we are sure they will readily do. English ministers are fond of holding out to their constituencies prospects of gold in Indian fields of industry with its rapidly growing railway system, and to let to all the patronage slip out of their hands may not be desirable. But this should not be all the reason for destroying the rising industries of India in which natives and Europeans are alike interested.

THE sage of the *Indian Daily News* has changed his garb once more. It may be an improvement having regard to circumstances of age and all that; but we liked our contemporary best in the costume familiar by long acquaintance. Our remarks about the Charter Bank Fraud case, we are told, are 'curious,' whatever that may mean. We have simply read the evidence—of course *in extenso*—between the lines, and we do not care to hazard further explanation. Mr. Jackson's masterly address to the jury is evidently not before our contemporaries at length and hence innuendos about 'mysticism.' The *Indian Daily News* in its Monday's issue regretted the absence of an Incorporated Society of Law on the English model for proper control of practitioners. In its Wednesday's issue our contemporary explains: 'In many cases within no long period of time we have heard statements to the disparagement of members of the legal profession: and we are sorry to say that many Native members thereof are mentioned as being addicted to practices which are rather "sharp" than professional; and it was this fact of frequent occurrence that suggested to our mind the need of some supervising authority here analogous to the Incorporated Law Society at Home. That such a course should be suggested in the midst of the many rumours and conflicting opinions on recent cases is quite natural, and we think good would result from the institution of such a society. We by no means wish to imply that the Natives are the only offenders against recognised legitimate practice; but when we are plainly told by Native friends that they employ European practitioners because they cannot trust their own countrymen, it seems to us to be high time that steps were taken to institute some regulating authority to deal with delinquents." This *is* mysticism if anything is; explanation is due to the profession, particularly if these observations have any bearing on the case under review. The only native practitioner engaged in the case were Babus Gonesh Chunder Chunder and Kally Nath Mitter, and their conduct from the beginning to end was perfectly honorable, and not even the prosecution could charge them with anything bearing the remotest resemblance to "sharpness". If the above stray remarks be meant even casually to be directed towards these or either of these gentlemen, it would amount to gross libel of an unjustifiable character. If rumour be correct the Advocate General's opinion as to further liability of Babu Shama Churn Sen to be prosecuted has been sent to the Court of Directors of the Bank in England and their decision will be awaited. We trust the Police and Sessions proceedings *in extenso* will also be sent to the Court.

THE following is a revised list of the gentlemen who have been appointed to set the examination papers for the Entrance, F. A., B. A., and M. A. Examinations of 1890-91:—

English.—Entrance and F. A., Mr. C. H. Tawney, C.I.E.

Do.—B.A. and M.A., Mr. K. Deighton.

Mathematics.—Entrance, F.A., B.A., and M.A., Mr. G. W. Knobler and Babu Ashutosh Mukerjee.

History.—Entrance, F.A., and B.A., Mr. E. Ormond.

Do.—M.A., Mr. M. Prothero.

Philosophy and Logic.—F.A., B.A., and M.A., Babu Kalichurn Banerjee and Dr. Duncan, of Madras.

Physics.—F.A., B.A., and M.A., Mr. J. Eliot.

Do. (Subsidiary and Practical).—M.A., the Hon. Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, C.I.E.

Chemistry.—Dr. C. J. H. Warden.

Botany.—Dr. D. Prain.

Physiology and Zoology.—Mr. J. Wood-Mason.

Geology.—Dr. W. King.

Sanskrit and Bengali.—Entrance and F.A., Pandit Haraprasad Sastri.

Do.—M.A., Mahamahopadhyay Chandrakanta Tarkalankar, Babus Nilmani Mookerjee and Krishnakamal Bhattachatterji.

Do—B.A., Babus Haraprasad Sastri and Rajendra Chandra Sastri.

Latin and Greek.—Mr. J. Mann and the Very Rev. Fr. Neut, S. J.

French.—Rev. Fr. deCampigneulles, S.J.

Persian.—Entrance, Maulvi Ahmad.

Do—F.A., B.A., and M.A., Shamsul Ulama Shaikh Mahmud Gilani and Maulvi Abool Khair Mahammad Siddiq.

Arabic.—Entrance, F.A., B.A., and M.A, Shamsul Ulama Shaik Mahmud Gilani and Major J. H. Sadler.

Urdu.—Maulavi Syed Shamsul Huda.

Hindi.—Pandit Kanhya Lal Sastri.

Uriya.—Babu Chuturbhuj Patnaik.

DR. DE JONCH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN GENERAL DEBILITY.—In cases of DEBILITY and Defective Nutrition, the use of this celebrated Oil has been attended with remarkably beneficial results. Rowlands Dalton Esq., District Medical Officer, Bury St Edmunds, writes:—"In giving my opinion on Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil, I have no hesitation in saying that I have not the slightest confidence in any other kind. The effects of Dr. de Jongh's Oil are sure and most remarkable, especially in that broken down state of health and strength, which usually precedes and favours tubercular deposit; and I never recommend any other sort. The Oil I have had from you was for my own use and it has certainly been the only means of saving my life on two occasions; and even now, when I feel 'out of condition' I take it, and like it, unmixed with any thing, as being the most agreeable way. I could wish that Dr. de Jongh's Oil would come into general use, and entirely supersede the Pale and other worthless preparations." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts, with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the lebel under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and store-keepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co. 210, High Holborn, London.

A cyclone was expected in Calcutta last week, and though the weather was decidedly favourable for such a "serious atmospheric disturbance," we were spared it for the present and were let off with a week's continuous pouring. Other tracts of the country have not, however, fared equally well. A tornado swept over Mymensing on Tuesday morning at 9-30. It travelled in a south-easterly direction to the north-west, injuring many houses on the river side. Several boats were also sunk. Some persons were rescued, but others are missing. The kerosine tin roofs of several houses were blown off and some strong buildings were greatly shaken by the force of the wind which made great havoc among every description of building. A spout appeared and passed over to the other side of the river, and trees and houses were swept away in some places. The people are in distress. Temporary relief is being given, but more is said to be necessary.

The points upon which the Government desires report from the newly appointed Factory Commission are as follows :—

Is the limitation of the hours of work for women to eleven in any one day proper and sufficient in view of the conditions under which factory labour is performed in India, and do the female operatives desire that the day's work should be limited to this amount, and, if not, to what amount?

(2) Should the law draw a distinction between young persons and adults, and if so, the age of a child being fixed at from 9 to 12, what should be the definition of a young person, and what should be the hours of employment of this class?

(3) If the limitation of the hours of work for children to nine in any one day proper and sufficient in view of the nature of the work on which children are employed in Indian factories and the condition under which they have to perform that work?

(4) Does clause 5 of the Bill now before the Legislative Council sufficiently provide for holidays for women and children, and is any provision required prescribing an allowance of holidays for adult male operatives?

(5) Do the male operatives desire that a general working day, and if so, of what length, should be fixed by law except in cases in which men work in shifts or sets, and if this change is not desired by the operatives themselves, do the conditions under which they work demand that it should be adopted?

(6) Do the male operatives desire that there should be a compulsory stoppage of work at a fixed time of the day, and if so, of what length, and should there be an exception in the case of men who work by shifts or sets? If the change is not desired by the operatives themselves, do the conditions under which they work demand that there should be a compulsory stoppage of labour, and, if so, in what manner should it be provided for?

The heads of enquiry are hardly comprehensive enough to obtain materials that would show beyond doubting that the insensate and interested cry raised for crippling Indian industries is absolutely without justification. The Commission, we have no doubt, will enquire in detail into the condition of life of the factory hands, and similar other matters tending to show their fitness or otherwise to undergo a certain amount of labour.

MR. ROBERT HOTZ of Simla, photographer by appointment to His Excellency the most Honourable the Marquess of Lansdowne Viceroy and Governor-General of India 13-5 Government Place, East, Calcutta.

Special arrangements made for Zenana ladies Inspection of Specimen invited.

Darjeeling from the tourists' point of view seems to be particularly unfortunate this year. Just when the weather in the Hills had begun to clear up and become something like enjoyable, a breach of the Northern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway above Sara, namely between Tilukpur and Nawabgunge, interrupted communication. Passengers had to be transhipped at the breach for a few days. The authorities, however, with their usual energy soon repaired the breach and through communication has been resumed.

Extract

A LECTURE IN DEFENCE OF LECTURES.

(*Alliance News.*)

Professor Max Muller, delivering the inaugural address at the opneing of the University Extention Lectures at Oxford recently, chose for his subject "Lecturing," and having commented upon the inordinate length of lectures, which ought not to last more than three quarters of an hour, the Professor went on to discuss audiences. He said:—Our audiences are generally too large, or, I should rather say they are too mixed. This is a very serious drawback, particularly from the lecturer's point of view. If we aim at one target we may possibly hit it; if we have to aim at two or three or four, we are almost sure to miss them all. Here, also, I speak feelingly. It might be supposed that, in a university which is protected by a matriculation examination, this difficulty did not exist. But it does exist.

We have in Oxford the ablest and best taught young men, who need not fear comparison with the first-class men of any other country. But we have also a very large number of students to whom real academic teaching can be of no use whatever. I shall give you one instance of what happened to me—not at Oxford, for one ought not to tell tales out of school—but at the Royal Institution in London. The audience there is certainly the most enlightened, the most brilliant, the most learned and critical audience one has to face anywhere in the world—but it is mixed. Years ago, when it was still necessary to prove that Hebrew was not the primitive language of all mankind, I had devoted a whole lecture to showing the impossibility of this opinion. I explained how it arose, and I placed before my audience a complete general logical tree of the Aryan and Semitic languages, where everybody could see with his own eyes the place which Hebrew really holds in the historical pedigree of human speech. After the lecture was over one of my audiences came up to me to shake hands and thank me for having shown so clearly how all languages, including Sanskrit and English, were derived from Hebrew, the language spoken in Paradise by Adam and Eve. Imagine my consternation! I well remember how I went to Faraday, who had listened to my lecture, and told him that after that it really was no use lecturing any more. He smiled, and with a twinkle in his dark eyes, he said: "you need not complain. I have been lecturing in this institution for many years, and over and over again, after I have explained and shewn before their very eyes how water consists of hydrogen and oxygen, some stately dowager will march up to me after the lecture and say in a confidential whisper, 'Now, Mr. Faraday, you don't really mean to say that this water here in your tumbler is nothing but hydrogen and oxygen?' Go on lecturing," he said, "something will always stick." I believe Faraday was right. Something will always stick, and light will sometimes spring from the very densest confusion of thought in which a people leaves the lecture-room. Still a large and mixed audience is a real evil, and I do not see why our society should not devise some means of sifting and dividing audiences, instead of depending altogether on the all powerful principle of natural selection, which, no doubt, will keep most people away from the lectures that seem to them both useless and tedius. It had been said that, when there is a really good book it is better to read that book than to attend a course of lectures. This sounds very plausible, no doubt. The best book on any subject must contain more valuable and more trustworthy information than can possibly be claimed by each of the ninety-nine professors who lectured on the same subject. But supposing that there is such a best book—one of these mythical Hundred best books of which we have heard so much of late—that book may be a monument of industry, but a teacher, his voice appeals more powerfully to our imagination than a silent page. No italics, no signs of exclamation, can equal in impressiveness the natural emphasis of conviction that issues at times, like an electric current, from the voice of a teacher, or even of the most unimpassioned preacher. We must not forget that there is room for preaching as well as for teaching lectures. When we want to stimulate interest before we convey information, we have to plead for our subject, we have to exhibit its charms, expound its usefulness, and show our pupils how they themselves may in time take their place in the noble army for the conquest of truth. No doubt a book also may sometimes kindle enthusiasm, but the shortest and safest way from the heart to the heart is, and always will be, the human voice. And as to our annual gathering here at Oxford, though they have been called mere picnics, we know that they are more than that, and that they have borne good fruit. They are no doubt intended as a mixture of what is sweet and what is useful. A fortnight or a month spent at Oxford at the best time of the year is certainly delightful, and it is meant to be so. But I believe it is also a lesson, and it may be a very important lesson. The mere sight of our venerable and beautiful university, so full of historical memories, however you look, must leave on those who come to visit us an impression of reverence for what is old and of sympathy for what is young. Ruins are very eloquent, but Oxford is not all ruins. You all know the story of the young American lady who was lost in admiration in the cloisters of Magdalen College. Suddenly a window was opened, and a young man looked out. "O, me!" she exclaimed, "are those ruins inhabited!" Yes, they are inhabited; these old ruins of ours are full of young life. I remember many years ago another visitor at Oxford, Frederick William IV., the King of Prussia. He also was lost in admiration of our ruins. "Gentlemen," he said, when he left us, "Oxford is a wonderful place; everything old in it is young, everything young is old." In these few words you have the whole secret of the political and social life of England—reverence for the past,, faith in the future. And here is a lesson which Oxford can teach and does teach without any lecturer and without any book. Professor Max Muller then spoke about words, pointing out how some of the most familiar terms were really the most mischievous in giving rise to the evil of confused thought.

MEMORY. LOISETTE'S System. A Cambridge University Lecturer (Dr. R. N. Ingle) was (Jan. 1890), "much impressed with the possibilities of improvement to Memory which the LOISETTE Lessons open up." "In three weeks I was able to memorise the names, &c., of 400 men." —Major Jamieson, Bengal S. C. "I intend to educate my son entirely on your system."—Rev. C. E. Cockin, M A., Rector of Lea (Sept, 1889). "Great advantage to strong memory; incalculable aid to weak one." Dr. J. M. Buckley.' Able to give gist of a book after reading it once." Rev. J. M. Macdonald, B. A. "Excellent travelling companion."—J. B. Haye, Commander, R. N. "Wonderful aid to memory."—Mirza Sader-uddin Khan. "Invaluable." —J. J. Francis, Q. C.—"Does not involve much labour."—*Statesman*, 23rd Oct., 1887. "Tremendously popular in Oxford."—*Pall Mall Gazette* 4th Feb., 1890. Prospectus Free. One pupil, Rs 76; Ten pupils, Rs. 19 each. Apply to F. Fisk-Williams, Esq. Calcutta; or to Prof. LOISETTE, 37, New Oxford Street, London, England.

Young men of sedentary habits, and who consequently suffer from constipation and hemorrhage, are soon cured; while persons to whom the hemorrhagic flux is necessary to their general condition of health, would easily restore it in the event of suppression, by using Dr. Frank's Grains of health. This precious medicament also assists in destroying the ascarides, and even the tapeworm.

From Major Scott, Killaloe, Co., Clare; November 24th, 1863. —Major A. Scott's compliments to Messrs. Comar & Co. and would thank them to send four bottles of Laville's Gout Liquor and four bottles of the Pills. He has taken this medicine since February 1862, and for the last twelve months has not been confined to the house for a day, or suffered an hour's pain. He has had the gout for the last 25 years, and has often been confined to his bed for a week at a time. He has never experienced the slightest inconvenience from the use of either Dr. Laville's Pills or Liquor.

Any fellow having used it will tell you that there is no better or more certain cure than Brou's Injection.

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette.—*October* 1, 1890,

GENERAL.—Mr G M Currie, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Nadiya, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Patna.

Mr D J Macpherson, c s, has been granted by Her Majesty's Secretaty of State for India an extension of furlough for six weeks.

Mr C E Buckland Secretary to the Board of Revenue, is appointed to act temporarily as Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the General, Revenue and Statistical Department,

Mr K G Gupta, Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties, as Secretary to the Board of Revenue, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr C E Buckland, or until further orders.

Mr R F Rampini, District and Sessions Judge, Burdwan, is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties, as Sessions Judge of Birbhum Sessions Division, during the absence, on leave, of Mr J Whitmore, or until further orders.

Mr H F Matthews, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Burdwan, is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge of Gya, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr J F Stevens, or until further orders.

The following officers are vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870, to be exercised in the districts mentioned opposite their names:—

Mr. W Fiddian, Officiating Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Howrah.

Babu Dina Nath Mukerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rungpur.

Babu Hurry Mohun Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Madaripur, Faridpur.

Mr R C Dutt, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Burdwan, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Magistrates and Collectors, with affect from the 4th instant, vice Mr J C Price, on privilege leave,

Mr R W Carlyle, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Chittagong, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the second grade of Magistrates and Collectors, with effect from the 4th instant, vice Mr. R C Dutt.

Babu Kali Nath Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mymensingh, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Gyanendra Nath Lahiri, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Nadiya, is transferred to the Sadar station of the district of Mymensingh, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Kali Nath Bose, or until further orders.

Babu Jaga Bandhu Ghose, Temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, in charge of the Serampur distillery, in the district of Hughli, is allowed leave for one month and twenty-eight days, under article of 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the forenoon of the 23rd instant.

Babu Hem Chundra Roy is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector of the fourth grade, and to have charge of the Serampur distillery, in the district of Hughly, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Jaga Bandhu Ghose, or until further orders.

Mr F S Hamilton, c s, reported his departure from India on furlough on the 18th instant.

Mr C A W Fordyce, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mudhepura, Bhagalpur, is transferred to the Sadar station of the district of Tipperah.

This cancels the order of the 26th August 1890, transferring Mr Fordyce to Burdwan.

Babu Atal Behary Moitra, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Tipperah, on leave, is transferred to the Sadar station of the district of Backerganj.

Babu Jogendra Nath Chuckerbutty, Sub-Deputy Collector, Burdwan, was on leave, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, from the 1st to the 21st September 1890, both days inclusive.

JUDICIAL.—Under the authority vested in him by the final clause of section 257 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Act X of 1882, the Lieutenant-Governor empowers Mr D N Mookerjee, Officiating Deputy Magistrate, Khulna, to take down evidence in criminal cases in the English language.

The Revd Arther Edward Summers is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the General Bench at the Sadar station of the district of Pubna, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Babu Hari Lal Mukerjee, Munsif of Magurah, in the district of Jessore, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Murshidabad, to be ordinarily stationed at Kandi.

Babu Chandra Nath Ghose, Munsif of Kandi, in the district of Murshidabad, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Jessore, to be ordinarily stationed at Bongong, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs, 25 within the local limits of the Bongong Munsifi.

Babu Triguna Prosonno Bose, Munsif of Bongong, in the district of Jessore, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Burdwan, to be ordinarily stationed at BudBud, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 50 within the local limits of the Baraset Munsifi.

Babu Bimala Charan Mozoomdar, Munsif of Baraset, in the district of 24-Pergunnahs, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Tirhoot, to be ordinarily stationed at Madhubani.

Babu Prayag Nath, Munsif of Madhubani, in the district of Tirhoot, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Bhagalpur, to be ordinarily stationed at Muddhepura, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 50 within the local limits of the Muddhepura Munsifi.

Babu Harihar Chandra Lal, Munsif of Muddhepura, in the district of Bhagalpur, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Shahabad, to bo ordinarily stationed at Arrah.

Moulvi Amir Ali Khan, Munsif of Arrah, in the district of Shahabad, is appointed to be an Additional Munsif in the district of Purneah, to be ordinarily stationed at Kissenganj.

Babu Tarak Chandra Das, Additional Munsif of Kissenganj, in the district of Purneah, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of the 24-Pergunnahs, to be ordinarily stationed at Basirhat.

Babu Khetter Prasad Mukerjee, Munsif of Basirhat, in the district of the 24-Pergunnahs, is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 50 within the local limits of the Basirhat Munsifi. He is also vested with the powers conferred on District Judges by sections 344 to 359 (both inclusive) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in the cases where the amount of debts owing by the insolvents does not exceed Rs. 1,000.

Babu Doorga Charan Ghose, Munsif of Basirhat, in the district of the 24-Pergunnahs, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Tipperah, to be ordinarily stationed at Chandpur, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 50 within the local limits of the Chandpur Munsifi. He is also vested with the functions of a District Court under Act VII of 1889 within the local limits of his jurisdiction.

Babu Rajnarain Mukerjee, Munsif of Chandpur, in the district of Tipperah, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Jessore, to be ordinarily stationed at Magurah.

Babu Akhoy Kumar Sen, Munsif of Netrokona, in the district of Mymensing, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Nadiya, to be ordinarily stationed at Kushtea.

Babu Jagadiswar Gupta, Munsif of Kushtea, in the district of Nadiya, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Noakhally, to be ordinarily stationed at Sudharam.

Babu Kali Prosonno Bose Rai Chowdry, Munsif of Sudharam, in the district of Noakhalli, is appointed to be a Munsif in Chota Nagpur, to be ordinarily stationed at Purulia, and is vested with the powers of a Court under section 3 of the Land Acquisition Act X of 1870.

Mr A C Mitter, Munsif of Purulia, in Chota Nagpur, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Rangpur, to be ordinarily stationed at Jalpaiguri, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 50 within the local limits of the Jalpaiguri Munsifi.

Babu Jagat Chandra Das, Munsif of Jalpaiguri, in the district of Rangpur, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Chittagong, to be ordinarily stationed at Sitakund.

Babe Iswar Chandra Chatterjee, Munsif of Sitakund, in the district of Chittagong, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Jessore, to be ordinarily stationed at Narail.

Babu Gopal Krishna Ghose, Munsif of Narail, in the district of Jessore, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Burdwan, to be ordinarily stationed at Raniganj, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 50 within the local limits of the Raniganj Munsifi.

Babu Kali Dhun Chatterjee, Munsif of Raniganj, in the district of Burdwan, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Jessore, to be ordinarily stationed at Satkhira, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 50 within the local limits of the Satkhira Munsifi.

Babu Chandi Charan Sen, Munsif of Satkhira, in the district of Jessore, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Dacca, to be ordinarily stationed at Munshiganj, and is vested with the functions of a District Court under Act VII of 1889 within the local limits of his jurisdiction.

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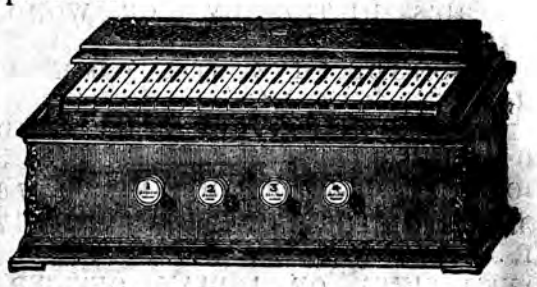

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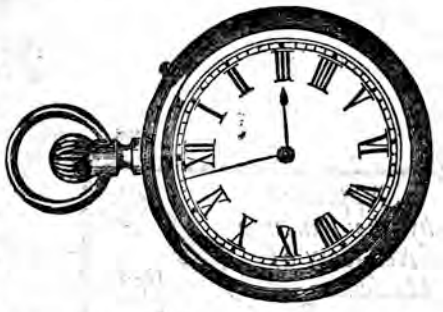

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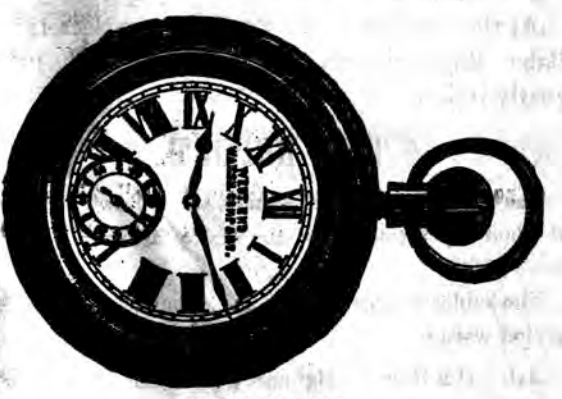

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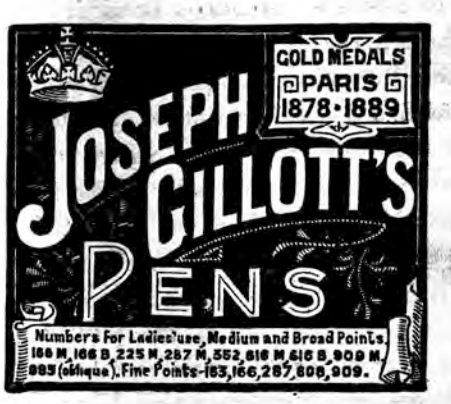
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BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

THE half yearly meeting of the members of the above Association was held on Tuesday, 30th September, at the Association Rooms, 18 British Indian Street, at 4-30 P. M. Maharajah Sir Narendra Krishna K. C. I. E., presided. There were present the following members:—

THE HON'BLE RAJA DURGA CHURN LAW C. I. E.,
RAJA PEARY MOHUN MOOKERJEE C. S. I.,
KUMAR DINENDRO NARAIN ROY,
KUMAR DEVENDRO MULLICK BAHADUR,
KUMAR ROMESHWAR MALIA,
MR. J. GHOSAL,
MR. A. CHOWDHURI,
MR. H. M. RUSTOMJEE.
BABU KUNJOLAL BANNERJEE,
„ ROMANATH GHOSE,
„ KIRUN CHUNDER ROY,
„ JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE,
„ ISSUR CHUNDER MITTER,
„ CHARU CHUNDER MULLICK,
„ HURRY MOHUN BOSE,
„ RAM CHUNDER GOONDKA,
„ JOYGOBIND LAW,
„ GONESH CHUNDER CHUNDER,
„ JODULAL MULLICK,
„ BAIKANTHA NATH BASU,
„ DEVAPRASAD SARVADHIKARI,
„ BARJENDRA KUMAR ROY CHAWDHURI,
„ CHUNDI LALL SINGH,

At the request of the President the Secretary, Babu Rajkumar Sarvadhikari, read the half-yearly report.

THE REPORT.

The Committee beg to submit the following report of their operations for the half-year ending 30th June 1890.

The subjects treated by the Committee during the period were :

1st. His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor's Visit to Calcutta.
2nd. The Calcutta Port Bill
3rd. Municipal Bye-laws.
4th. Mode of Service of Processes in Rent Suits.
5th. Bill for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
6th. Bill to make better provisions for recovering certain Public Demands.
7th. Bill to amend the law relating to Partition of Estates.
8th. Durga Pujah Holidays.
9th. Zemindari Dak Cess.
10th. Income Tax.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR'S VISIT TC CALCUTTA.

Your Committee took an active part in giving a suitable reception to His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor on His Royal Highness' visit to Calcutta. Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, K.C.S.I., was elected President of the Reception Committee. The Chiefs and Nobles and the representatives of all sections of both the European and Native communities joined in the movement, and the lead was given to this Association. Both the Reception at Prinsep's Ghat and the Entertainment given in honor of His Royal Highness on the Maidan were completely successful. It is the pleasing duty of Your Committee to inform you that His Royal Highness, His Excellency the Viceroy and His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor expressed their great satisfaction at the popular and successful character of the demonstration. It is gratifying to your Committee to note that cordial union and good-will animated both the European and Native sections of the community in this popular demonstration of loyalty to the British Throne.

(2) PORT BILL.

On the 11th January last, your Committee submitted to Government for the consideration of the Council of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal the following observations regarding the Calcutta Port Bill :

They observed that they viewed with alarm the doctrine laid down by the Select Committee in their report upon the Bill that "the land below the high water mark undoubtedly belongs to the Government, that any person who puts up any work within such limits is in law a trespasser and might be called summarily to remove it". This doctrine could not be supported, if the origin of the proprietory right in land in the provinces of Bengal, Behar and Orissa was carefully looked into. Your Committee submitted that in making a permanent settlement of the land revenue, Government parted with its right in beds of rivers as in other lands. Government possesses only certain rights on behalf of the public in navigable rivers. Sec. 5 of Regulation XI of 1825 lays down that "nothing in this Regulation shall be construed to justify any encroachment by individuals in the beds or channels of navigable rivers or to prevent Zilla and City magistrates, or any other officers of Government, who may be duly empowered for that purpose, from removing obstacles which appear to interfere with the safe and customary navigation of such rivers." This right was once interpreted by a Subordinate Court to mean that "a flowing or current river cannot form the right of any proprietor of land." But the Hon'ble High Court held that "the bed of a flowing stream may be the property of a private person. (24 W. R. 317.) Your Committee futher submitted that the very fact that the land gained by the change of the course or otherwise of a river belongs to private owners and not to Government was fatal to the doctrine that beds of river belong to Government. In almost all Government survey papers the beds of navigable rivers have been described as the property of riparian proprietors. The landholders, as a matter of fact, have since 1793 exercised a right of ownership in the beds of all rivers navigable or otherwise in these provinces, and in innumerable places built ghats, wharves, jetties and other structures. They have also extended cultivation down to much below the high water mark at a considerable outlay of capital.

Your Committee had to recall the circumstances connected with the assumption of the identical right by the Government of Bengal in 1872, which they were ultimately forced to forego by reason of the opinion of the Advocate-General, Mr. Cowie, to the effect that the right or title of each riparian proprietor extended down to the middle of the bed of a river—an opinion which was in entire consonance with the judgment passed in a case reported in L. R. No. 30. C. C. D. 133. The principle laid down was : "the conveyance by a riparian owner of land bounded by a river includes half the bed of the river although the area mentioned in the conveyance and the map therein referred to do not include such half of the bed."

Your Committee, therefore, submitted that the provisions of sec. 76 (85) of the Bill might be reconsidered with a view to its amendment, as it was opposed to the well-recognised rights of landholders and seriously interfered with private rights of property. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor noticed the letter of Your Committee from his place in the Council and observed that the large and important question of title in river beds did not directly arise from the provisions of the Bill, and that it was not the intention of Government to express any opinion on that question one way or the other. The section of the Port Bill objected to by the Committee was, however, modified so as to provide for compensation being given for lands in the foreshore of the river taken by the Port Commissioners.

(3) MUNICIPAL BYE-LAWS.

The Secretary to the Corporation forwarded with his letter, dated the 6th December last, a copy of draft Bye-Laws regarding buildings, and requested the Association to favour him with an expression of their opinion.

Your Committee in reply thereto submitted their observations on the 29th January last and suggested certain amendmends and alterations in a number of the draft Bye-Laws giving their reasons for the modifications proposed by them.

(4) MODE OF SERVICE OF PROCESSES IN RENT SUITS.

Your Committee submitted on the 31st of January last the following observations regarding the mode of service of processes in rent suits for the consideration and orders of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor.

They observed that the cost of service of summons upon a defendant, however small the value of the suit might be, exceeded very often the amount of the claim, as it consisted not only of peons' fees but also the travelling and diet expenses of the person who pointed out and identified the defendant on behalf of the landholder. It was, therefore, a source of much expense to the landholder and a heavy burden upon the tenants. In cases in which the defendant resided in a distant district, the postage fees plus the costs ordinarily incurred became disproportionately heavy. When the defendant lived out of British India, or where in consideration of the defendant's rank, the court sent a letter by post instead of a summons, the presumption in such cases was that the summons had been served until the contrary was proved. In a large majority of rent suits not only the claims were not contested but they were very often decided *ex parte*. Such *ex parte* decree according to the provisions of the law might be revised whenever there appeared any irregularity or fraud in the service of the summons.

Your Committee, therefore, suggested that it would be a great saving of expense to landholders and a great relief to tenants, if the courts were vested with discretion to order service of summons by post under a registered cover. They thought that if the identification of the defendant were left to the post peon who delivered the registered letter to him, aided as he is in such matters by the village-peopel

instead of to an interested person whose evidence is often contradicted, the ends of justice would be fully sub-served. The delay in the trial and decision of rent suits, caused not unoften by delay in the service of summons on account of the paucity of peons at the disposal of the courts, would also be prevented.

Your Committee accordingly requested His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to move the Hon'ble High Court to pass rules under Section 148 (*d*) of the Bengal Tenancy Act for the service of summons by post at the discretion of the Courts in substitution for the other modes of service prescribed by the Code of Civil Procedure. The matter is still pending the decision of Government.

(5.) BILL FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELLY TO ANIMALS.

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal forwarded with his letter No. J5 $\frac{A}{2}$ 10, dated 25th January last, copy of a Bill for the Prevention of cruelty to animals along with other papers relating to the same subject, and requested an expression of the opinion of your Association on the Bill and particularly on those provisions thereof to which particular reference was made in the speech of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill.

In reply, Your Committee on the 6th February last, stated that the provisions in Section 4 might tell against the practice observed by the Mahomedan community in slaughtering animals according to the tenets of their religion, and suggested the addition of a clause saving all religious practices from the operation of the Act. Regarding punishment, they suggested the imposition of a fine only in the first instance, as public opinion on the subject had not as yet sufficiently advanced all over the country. Again as it would always be very difficult to determine whether a live animal was suffering from starvation, or a dead one had been killed in an unnecessarily cruel manner, your Committee expressed a fear that abuse of power or unnecessary harassment and vexation would result, if either any member of the community or a police officer were invested with the power to determine the questions, and to arrest persons without warrant who had not committed any offence in his presence, but were merely accused of having committed it, as provided in Sub Sec 2, Section 3.

Your Committee were fully disposed to agree with the remark of the Hon'ble Mr. Hutchins that the proposed law should be brought into operation in such local areas, as the local Government might direct; but they urged that such local areas should be selected with reference to the facilities for bringing offenders to speedy justice. The proximity of a magistrate, capable of disposing such cases, was urgently necessary. They further observed that it would be unsafe and unadvisable to have the enactment immediately brought into operation *every where* and *wherever* any particular act of cruelty was noticed to have been committed: they saw no objection to its being enforced in towns or other such areas where offenders might be easily brought to trial. They also objected to the issuing of search warrants as provided in Section 7, as the search of a house was always looked upon with horror and dismay, and it might often be brought about by evil-disposed people on an allegation of the most trivial offences having been committed.

(6) BILL FOR RECOVERY OF PUBLIC DEMANDS.

Your Committee on the 10th February last, submitted to the Government of India their observations regarding the Bill for the Recovery of Public Demands. They said that the provisions of this Bill would simply be a re-enactment of Sections 5, 6 and 9 of Bengal Act VII of 1880, within the territories under the administration of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal —that although they approved generally the scope of the proposed measure they were afraid that it would be productive of hardship and possibly injustice to defaulters unless it be safeguarded by some of the provisions in the Bengal Act. A notice, in addition to the proclamation therein provided, should be served upon the defaulter, and he might be allowed to submit to the Collector any objections he had regarding the correctness of the demand. They suggested that the provisions of Sections 10 and 12 of the Bengal Act might be incorporated with the present Bill: it would save persons the trouble of going to law and incurring the expenses of a civil suit without any opportunity having been given to adjust and correct accounts where there was a mistake. Some limit of time should also be imposed within which the civil suit might be instituted. A year, as prescribed in Section 6 of the Bengal Act, did not seem unreasonable.

(7) THE PARTITION BILL.

The Government of Bengal in their No. G 21$\frac{A}{2}$ S, dated the 5th December last, forwarding therewith a copy of a draft Bill to amend the law relating to Partition, invited an expression of opinion of your Association on the provisions of the Bill and the expediency of undertaking legislation on the lines contained therein.

Your Committee in reply thereto submitted on the 7th March last, that in absence of the usual statement of Objects and Reasons, they were unable to see what were the objects of the Bill and what were the evils which it was intended to remedy. If the preservation of family estates from being divided into minute fragments was intended, this object would not be obtained but rather be frustrated by the provisions as at present framed. "Section 7 empowers the Court to divide the estate in any manner, it may think fit. A part may be partitioned among the co-parceners in minute divisions and the remainder sold to utter strangers. The whole estate will thus be split up into minute portions, and a discordant element, in the shape of a stranger, brought in to keep up continual strife among the different sharers. The present law does not require a portion to be thrown to strangers, but the proposed Bill empowers sale before partition, and thus breaks the property and deprives the co-parceners of their rights in ancestral estates. Section 4 empowers the Court to direct sale of the property, if the party or parties concerned individually or collectively, to the extent of one moiety or upwards, request it." The effect would be that a moiety-holder, happening to be the stronger of the two, might compel the other co-sharer to sell his share. And thus the stronger party might deprive the weaker of his share by paying him a money-value for it. The provision embodied in this section would thus place a dangerous weapon in the hands of rich co-parceners. They might at any time deprive the sharers of their right. The proviso to Section 4; might commit a geater mischief than the Section itself, it directs that "no sale shall be made under this or the preceding Section, if any other party interested, shall undertake to buy the share of the party asking for sale in which case, the court might order a valuation of the share". It thus placed the co-sharers entirely at the mercy of the sharer asking for sale, such a valuation could never be adequate and must have been accepted by the co-sharers. The consequence would be that the value of the other shares would be considerably depreciated, and the interested party might buy them at this inadequate price. Your Committee further stated that the intention of the framer of this proviso was not correctly understood; whether it was meant that there should be no sale, or that the share be given to the party interested at the valuation made by order of the Court, or that it should be sold to the highest bidder: a third party, a complete stranger might be the highest bidder, and in that case it would merely be the substitution of a stranger in the place of the former co-sharer. Under it no partition was made, the estate remained as it had been only a stranger, who might be of a different faith, was allowed to step in to the injury of the interests of the co-sharers.

"There are cases, where a division of the property by metes and bounds is inexpedient and impracticable. The present law, however, meets all our social requirements, and does not need any material change. The remedy proposed is worse than the evil complained of.

In Mahomedan and Hindu communities, where religious differences and zenana seclusion are important factors, the necessity for keeping out strangers from dwelling houses has been keenly felt, and they could not under any circumstances welcome any law, that would force upon them any strangers or persons not of their own faith. The tendency of the proposed law is to break up all time-honored institutions, so interwoven with social life. The people would rather put up with inconveniences they now labor under than receive others which are so repugnant to their feelings."

Your Committee admitted that the division of the property in small fragments was a source of great evil, but it could not be avoided as long as the law relating to equal divisions remains unchanged.

The Bill, following the English Partition Act of 1868, and favoring, without paying any regard to the difference of social conditions, the sale of the property and the distribution of the proceeds, was entirely unsuited to the circumstances of this country, and your Committee pointed out that so long as religious differences prevailed in the country, and the character of its social organisation remained unchanged, the law of partition as formulated in the Bill would prove ruinous to all classes of the community.

(8) DURGA PUJAH HOLIDAYS.

On the 19th of January last, the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal forwarded with his letter No. $\frac{1H}{1}$ 21, copies of letters, regarding the question of the number of public holidays to be observed in Bengal during the Durga Pujah, and requested your Committee to furnish His Honor the Lieutenant Governor with the opinion of the Association on the subject.

Your Committee in reply thereto submitted that it would be unnecessary to refer to the history of the question previous to the year 1882. On the Chamber of Commerce submitting, in March 1882, certain representations regarding the curtailment of the Durga Pujah Holidays, the Government of Bengal on the 27th July 1882, remarked that the inconvenience and loss which the mercantile community suffered from the existing state of things could not be remedied without inflicting a serious hardship on a far more numerous, though less influential portion of the community; and the Government of India in September 1882 fully sympathising with the serious hardship which any curtailment would inflict on a large class of people declared that the consideration put

forward by the Chamber of Commerce was apparently not sufficient to justify any modification of the orders passed in January, 1880, or the re-opening of a question which had been decided after careful consideration in all its aspects.

This principle decided in 1882 was re-affirmed in the letter of the Government of India, dated 4th November 1889 (para 6), wherein it was stated that the arrangements made for the conduct of a specified class of business in the Currency Office during a portion of the holidays did not "necessarily involve a departure from the *principle on which the policy of Government is based.*'

The Negotiable Instruments Act was passed in 1881, and the Chamber of Commerce in their representation in March 1882, dwelt on the fact that great and general inconvenience and serious loss were caused by the total closing of the Currency and other Government Offices and on the desirability of making arrangements by which the employes could take leave in relays. They have now complained that "public business has been to a great extent paralized during these holidays by the closing of the Exchange Banks, and that the trade of the port is materially affected by the closure of the Shipping office and the inability to obtain port clearances. The objection regarding the closing of the Exchange Banks has now been raised for the first time, long after the Act has been in operation. The inconvenience therefore could not have been very keenly felt. Whatever inconvenience was heretofore felt, has been in a great extent removed by the opening of the Bank of Bengal and Custom-House during certain days of the vacation. The interests of Exchange Banks depend altogether on those of commerce, and if in the interests of trade it is essentially necessary that they should be kept open, it is only natural to suppose that they would be kept open. The question now under discussion under the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor, is whether it would not serve all interests to notify only 4 of the Durga Pujah holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act, and to notify the rest as holidays except in certain offices in Calcutta which will be kept open all these days to meet the exigencies of commerce."

Your Committee observed that if the remaining holidays, as had been proposed, were notified by an executive order, it would only tend to the compulsory attendance of Hindu employes not only in the excepted offices, but in all or nearly all other offices in Calcutta. "In the case of Mahomedan holidays which are observed in the offices at Calcutta scarcely any inconvenience is felt as the number of Mahomedan employes is very insignificant. The Hindu employes, however, form the majority, and they are admitted to be strongly attached to their national holidays. To them the curtailment of holidays would be a serious hardship. It would also be subversive of the principle on which the policy of Government has been based. The Government of Bengal itself on the 27th July 1882 observed :—"It is true that it was proposed last year to require only a very small section of the establishment to attend for a part of two days; but it is justly urged that the principle on which the policy of Government is based would nevertheless be unnecessarily infringed."

"The question of leave between employers and employes are matters purely private and the Government having no State religion of its own could claim no right on principle to legislate about holidays. Leave during holidays is granted by favor which is only regulated by considerations of a wider kind than what is indicated by the abstract right. It is well known and admitted that if holidays be stopped work would not be stopped, but that certain sections of the community would be grievously hurt, and leave is, therefore, granted to avoid this injury to their feelings. But in questions concerning general leave such facts are never reckoned.' In considering the question of Banking and Shipping offices, it would not be proper to alter or affect the general law. Special conveniences might be secured for particular sections of the community and that most readily by departmental orders and not by changing the law. It cannot be denied that a general denial of leave on particular holidays would be more desirable to some persons than departmental orders, but in a mixed community, the merchants should be satisfied with the principle of mutual toleration and should not insist on their dues at the sacrifice of those who do not belong to their profession. The decision of the Government was that only an extremely limited number of days should be notified as Durga Puja holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

(9) ZEMINDARI DAK CESS.

Your Committee submitted on the 17th April last their representations regarding the Zemindari Dak Cess for the consideration and orders of His Honor the Lieutenant Goveror of Bengal.

They said that His Honor was pleased to observe, on the representation of this Association, submitted on the 9th January 1886, that he freely admitted that the establishment or maintenance of a Zemindari Dak between any two places connected at the time by a Government post would be contrary to law, but that the cases over-looked were very rare. The attention of the Post Master General was, however, called to the subject.

In the spirit of the legislation of 1862 and the express declaration made in Council, which led to the enactment of Sec. 4 of the Act, that the Zemindars would be gradually exempted from the payment of the Cess by the extension of General postal lines and that ultimately the imposition would be abolished altogether, no attempt at reducing the number or extent of Zemindary lines had been made. On the contrary, they were made to do duty for Government lines. Your Committee submitted accordingly the following circumstances bearing upon the working of the Act :—

"The rate of the Cess is varied almost every year according to the requirements of the postal service, and as Zemindars have no permanent mooktears attending the collectors' offices where the notification on the subject is published they are consequently made to pay in numerous cases double the amount due, together with costs of distraint and sale. This loss and harassment would have been removed, had there been any provision in the law for the service of personal notice on defaulters.

"The regulation of 1793 provides that not only the proprietor but also the Gomastahs and other head persons of villages, are responsible for delivery of the letters to Magistrates and Police officers. The head men were paid by *door mashras* or small contributions from each door or house in the village. The burden, therefore, is primarily one imposed upon the village community—an obligation which has also been recognised by Sec. 12 of the Act. The leases executed since 1793 usually contain a stipulation to that effect, and the zemindars collect thereby so much in the rupee as covers approximately the amount they have to pay. But as the amount realized by the collector fluctuates annually the zemindar's recovery at times varies in accordance thereof. A number of ryots in almost every village do not pay the cess, but it is still an imposition, the legal title of the zemindars to recover which has been recognised by the courts in all cases in which the aforesaid stipulation in the tenants' lease exists."

Your Committee submitted, therefore, that this state of things was most unsatisfactory : the landholders as aforesaid were made to pay double the amount of the lawful cess and to undergo the loss and harassment caused by the process of recovery while the tenants had to pay a fixed cess. This they ventured to suggest might be remedied if the Postal Department were to compound the imposition for a fixed annual amount to be paid for a definite number of years and to extend the imperial postal lines so as to be able to abolish the zemindary lines altogether after that time.

The amount of zemindari cess annually collected from landholders in these provinces exceeded three lakhs of Rupees by a few thousands, against which charges for collection incurred in every district were debited. Your Committee suggested therefore, that steps for the amendment of Act 8 of 1862 be taken so as to provide that no more than two lakhs of Rupees be collected annually from landholders on account of the dak cess for the five years following the amendment, and no more than one lakh annually for the next five years; and that the cess be abolished altogether after ten years from this amendment. The sum so fixed might be apportioned to the different districts according to the average of their payments during the last five years, the amount payable by each district made a charge upon estates (as provided in sec. 5) and recoverable as arrears of Land Revenue, and that during the latter period of 5 years no landholders should be entitled, notwithstanding any contract to the contrary, to recover any sum paid by him as dak cess from his tenants.

This, your Committee represented, would obviate al objections to which the imposition at present was subjected to, and ultimately be a fulfilment of the State promise made at the time when the cess was imposed.

In reply to the above the Government of Bengal in their No. 1137, dated 29th July last, directed that the considerations advanced by your Committee in favour of substituting a fixed charge for the variable cess levied under Act 8 of 1862 was weighty; but the proposal for the extinction of the charge, appeared to them inadmissible. A further suggestion as to how the more limited alternative of commutation could best be arranged was called for.

(10) INCOME TAX.

Your Committee forwarded on the 28th of May last a Memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy on the working of the Income Tax levied under the provisions of Act II of 1886.

They submitted that they had made enquiries on the subject of the Circular issued a few weeks ago by the Collector of Income Tax, Calcutta, calling for returns of profits on consignment of goods made to India by persons not residing in this country. They had also considered the resolution of the Government of India No. 5411, dated 23rd October 1889, and ascertained the position taken by the Bengal and Bombay Chambers of Commerce, and they were of opinion that it would be perfectly impossible to levy a tax on the profits of goods consigned to India. The Resolution above referred to admitted that a similar question was decided in the negative in 1863, but action was now taken as the trade had considerably expanded within the last 27 years. Your Committee urged that "if such a tax was difficult and impossible of collection in 1863, when trade was at its minority, it would not be easy now when it is greater in volume and extends over a wider area. The reason advanced in the resolution for the imposition of this tax, is the special ground why the orders of 23rd October 1889 should be cancelled."

Your Committee noticed some facts in the history of the direct taxation of India, and showed by evidence that the finances of the empire had been dealt with the idea of making direct taxation per-

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manent. There were Acts imposing an Income Tax, a Certificate Tax, again a License Tax, and finally again an Income Tax. Government being almost in despair of working an Imperial Act had to resort to legislation for different parts of the Empire, province by province, and yet after 4 years of efforts the existing tax does not yield half of the surplus which Sir David Barbour was able to declare in the Budget speech of March last.

Your Committee further submitted that ever since the Act had been in operation, it had been a cause of discontent and protest from the people in the country; that it fell with peculiar severity upon the Presidency cities, Calcutta itself paying more than one half of the total Income Tax paid by the whole of Bengal, and that it was wholly unsuited to the circumstances and the habits of the people of India. Under these circumstances your Committee prayed that the orders of October 23rd 1889, might be withdrawn: and that the Income Tax under Act 2 of 1886 imposed under great financial pressure and to meet a special necessity be abandoned as being no longer required for financial reasons and unsuited to the country, and a permanent cause of harassment and dissatisfaction to the people.

NEW ORDINARY MEMBERS.

The following gentlemen have been elected by the Managing Committee members of the Association, subject to the usual confirmation under Rule X :

1. Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter Kt, Bhowanipore.
2. Kumar Radhaprasad Roy, Calcutta.
3. Babu Ashutosh Pramanick, Calcutta.
4. Babu Joygobind Law, Calcutta.

OBITUARY.

The Committee deeply regret to announce the loss which the Association has sustained by the death of the following members :—

Babu Denonath Mullick,

„ Mohesh Chandra Chowdhuri.

The President then addressed the meeting. He said :—

"Gentlemen,—I beg to daw your special attention to the Bill introduced by Government for the recovery of the land revenue and other public demands in the interest of landholders and tenants. It proposes that in the event of non-payment of revenue by them on the fixed date, notice would be served on them for its payment, and, on their failing to do so a co-sharer is empowered to pay the whole amount due against all of them, and to recover it from the defaulters by summary means. In cases of default the estate to be put up for sale and the parties interested would be at liberty to prevent its sale by discharging the arrears with the additional payment of a fine before thirty days of the notice of sale. Hitherto the Collector with the permission of the Revenue Commissioner has allowed them to pay the arrears before the day fixed for the sale of their property. They are indulgently treated by the officers of Government in their time of difficulty and the bill empowers them to receive such arrears with the addition of a heavy penalty one month prior to the sale. The landholders do not fail to pay the amount of revenue in due time unless they are unable to do so owing to the failure of good grains and other valuable products in an unfavourable season. If a penalty exceeding the rate of twelve per cent. interest on the arrears be imposed, the Bill instead of conferring a boon would entail hardship on them. A purchaser under the Revenue Sale Law can only enter into a new settlement with the tenants-at-will if the other tenure holders, enumerated in clause 57, register their tenures according to the provisions of the Bill. The proposed letter of the Association to Government has fairly pointed out the defects of the Bill. I will not further take up your time with my remarks. I now invite the members to discuss the matters mentioned in the half-yearly report with their usual ability. In conclusion the British Indian Association deeply regret to notice the death of Babus Denonath Mullick and Mohesh Chunder Chowdry, two of its old and valued members.

Babu Jadu Lall Mulick in response to the President's invitation said :—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—The Report has been read to you; I have only one remark to make about the last item of the report, the Income tax. You have no doubt seen the answer of the Government of India to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and now we learn that a copy of that answer has been sent us in response to our memorial. I need hardly tell you that the answer is neither very encouraging nor satisfactory. We will have to go before Government again with reference to that obnoxious tax. We did not oppose this tax when it was absolutely needed to meet the expenditure indispensably necessary for the administration of the country. But we find that the necessity no longer exists and I think it high time that we should be granted relief in that direction. It has been admitted on all hands that of all taxes levied in this country this tax is considered the most obnoxious by all sections of the community, and from its inquisitorial nature it is most vexatious to all. I only draw the attention of the Committee to this that they may take an early opportunity of ventilating the subject again.

The first resolution, namely, that the report be received and adopted, was proposed by Babu Kirun Chunder Roy and seconded by Babu Brajendra Kumar Roy Chowdry and carried unanimously.

Babu Gonesh Chunder Chunder in moving the second resolution said :—

I think it necessary to say a few words in explanation of the circumstances under which the necessity for proposing this resolution has arisen. This house in which the Association is located was purchased in 1868, with funds belonging to the Association and with money which was received as contributions from gentlemen, members of the Association, and from friends, as well as the Hurish Chunder Mookerjea Memorial Library and the Grant Testimonial Fund &c. The property was acquired on a conveyance taken in the name of Maharaja, then Babu, Jotendro Mohun Tagore who was described in the conveyance as the Secretary of the Association. So that the conveyance of the property still stands in the name of Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore. I have gone through the conveyance of the property and find that no trust is attached to the holding of the house. And Maharajah Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore has recently expressed a wish, which was a natural one, that he would be relieved from the personal responsibility of holding the property. You are, therefore, in this position. The Association not being registered and not being a corporate body, cannot hold the property and you have no one who will hold the property for the Association. It therefore becomes necessary that you should appoint trustees of this Association by a resolution of the General Committee for the purpose of holding the property, so that the trustees may be in a position to receive the conveyance from Maharajah Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore. The necessity having how arisen for appointing trustees for this purpose I move the following resolution:—

That the following gentlemen be appointed Trustees of the Association to hold the properties belonging to the Association and to obtaining a transfer thereof from persons holding the same in trust for the Association :—

Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore K. C. S. I.

Maharajah Sir Narendra Krishna Bahadur K. C. I. E.

Raja Rajendralala Mitra L.L.D., C.I.E.,

Rajah Durga Churn Law C I. E.,

Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee C, S. I.

Raja Durga Churn Law said:—I wish to ask a question. Can the property be held by the Trustees appointed by the Association seeing other Funds have contributed to the purchase?

Babu Gonesh Chunder Chunder:—Yes, it can for this reason. In the case of the Hurish Chunder Mookerjee Fund an agreement was come to between the promoters of the Fund and the then members of the British Indian Association that the property should be used for the purposes not only of the British Indian Association but also for the Library. As regards the Grant Testimonial Fund an agreement was come to that the fund should be held at the disposal of the British Indian Association. And the gentlemen who contributed sums of money for the purchase of the house made a gift of the house to the Association.

Babu Kunjo Lal Bannerjee, in seconding the resolution, said:—The list of trustees bears the names of noblemen, who are most exceptional gentlemen, and I can tell you that it took considerable time to deliberate on the course which had to be at last adopted, so that there will be nothing which will interfere with our liability."

The resolution was then put to the meeting by the President and carried unanimously.

Babu Jodulal Mullick then proposed that Pundit Pran Nath Saraswati be elected a member of the Association.

Mr. H. M. Rustomjee seconded the resolution which was carried unanimously.

With a cordial vote of thanks to the Chair by Raja Durga Churn Law the meeting separated.